

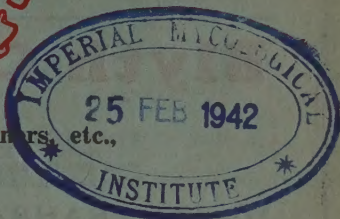
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Vol. XLII.

No. 12

DECEMBER 5th, 1941

Price 6d.

Season's Greetings To Readers Special Articles This Month

Apple and Pear Acquisition
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas
Fertilizers for Orchards
and Vineyards
South Australian News & Notes
The Goulburn Valley (Victoria)
Successful Stationary Spray Plant
Annual Report of Australian Dried Fruits Association

Control of Cutworms
Onion Growing
Canning Tomatoes and Carrots
Gas Storage of Fruit
Crop Prospects
Victorian News and Notes

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2 Quality, 12 Size, with Packers' Cull Belts and Sorting Table, Sliding Case Holders with Rest Rail—necessary for Packers.

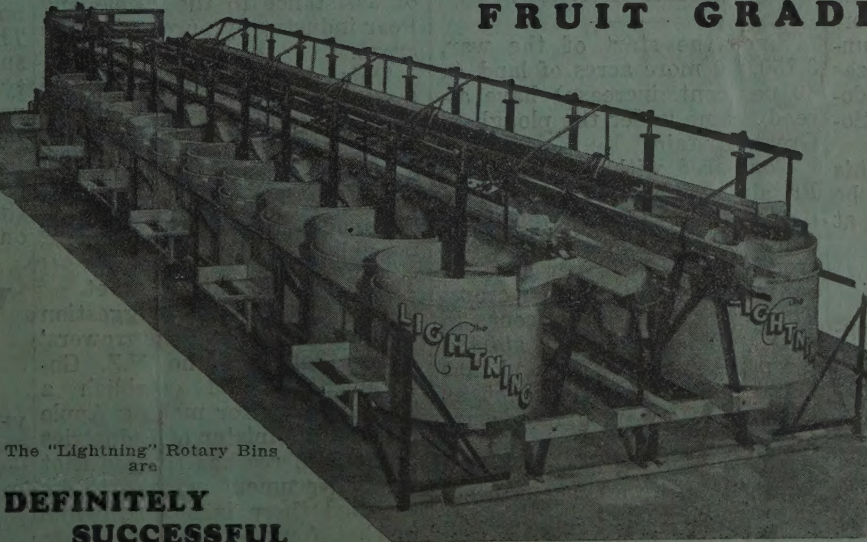
Built in one or more qualities, as desired, with bins on one or both sides—any number of bins.

Latest and most Improved type with latest American design of suspension springing. Quickly changed for various weights of fruit.

Bins of large capacity—each 3-foot bin will hold between 8 and 9 cases.

Bins fill and lower automatically while revolving—the inner tray being specially designed to maintain a uniform height of fruit.

"Lightning" Rotary Bins fill correctly because they are protected by "Lightning" Patents and design.



The "Lightning" Rotary Bins are

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SUCCESSFUL**

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES ONLY OBTAINABLE ON "LIGHTNING" MACHINES:

- Latest American suspension Springing.
- Special sides to floating tray, which enables fruit to rise perfectly.
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A great time saver.

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"LEAD ARSENATE is our standard spray material to-day. None of the many substitutes which have been tested have proved to be as toxic and effective in control."

Arsenate of Lead (Paste or Powder), Lime Sulphur, Special Copper Mixture (Fungicide), Spray Spreader, White Oil, Nicotine Sulphate, Red Oil, etc.

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South Australia: George Wills & Co. Ltd., Gilbert House, Gilbert Place, Adelaide.
Western Australia: Gibbs, Bright & Co., 179 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Works: PRAHRAN GROVE, ELSTERNWICK, VICTORIA — LF 1468.

YOUNG FARMERS

Club Activities

Some Victorian Notes.

Notting Hill Young Farmers' Club held its annual field day recently. The event was officially opened by Brigadier Knox, M.L.A., who commended club workers on their excellent exhibits of sheep, cattle, poultry and cultivation. Members of the Mothers' Club organised stalls for the sale of produce to aid the war effort.

The Cohuna District Council of Young Farmers' Clubs, this year presented to the Cohuna Agricultural Society a comprehensive schedule of Young Farmer sections. This was adopted by the society and an attractive display of livestock, handwork, record books and other work resulted. Representatives of each of the clubs — Horfield, McMillans, Gunbower Island West, and Mead—competed. For the competitions points were allotted, the aggregate determining the holder of the Harold Stirling Cup for this year. The final points for the Cup were:—Mead, 115; Horfield, 28; McMillans, 21; Gunbower Island West, 7. Prizes for the competitions were donated by the Agricultural Society.

It can be expected that this Young Farmer section will be an ever greater feature at future shows.

The first field day of the Tongala East Club was very successful, with a large attendance of parents and district residents. The young people gave a series of lectures on a variety of subjects, exhibited pigs, sheep, cattle, dogs and poultry, and made a display of record books, needlework, cooking and handwork. A proud display was made of pasture plots, tomatoes, onions for seed for Gt. Britain and for salads.

The prizes were presented by Supervisor Mr. Hedley Jones.

N.S.W. Notes.

From Tharrogan (M.I.A.) comes news of a wide variety of activities. Sunflowers — thirty rows of them, eight yards long — have been planted. Despite the very dry season, good work has been done in vegetable growing, while the livestock section has not been neglected, Les Lewis having commenced a sheep project with a number of lambs.

Monty Forrester and Bob Potts have undertaken a problem which is receiving a lot of attention at the present time—investigation into the prevention of soil erosion. The lads have planted varieties of grasses to estimate their effectiveness in binding drifting soils. This should prove a worthwhile project.

[Secretaries of Young Farmers' Clubs are asked to send in reports for publication.—Ed.]

FARMING IN BRITAIN.

Increases Activities.

Since the start of the war, 3,750,000 more acres of land (a 40 per cent. increase) have already come under the plough in Great Britain.

Compared with the last war, Britain now has 6,750,000 more people to feed, with 4,500,000 acres less arable land under crop. In 1916, 32 per cent. of cultivated land was under crops. That rose to 38 per cent. in 1918. When this war started the percentage was 28, and that has increased to 42 per cent. as a result of the ploughing campaign.

The production of crops such as wheat, potatoes, sugar beets and vegetables is being intensified to ease the strain on shipping.

"You must feel awful about your best friend running away with your wife."

"Yes, I'll surely miss him."

New Zealand Items

DISEASE-FREE TOMATO SEED — CONTINUANCE OF APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION — APPLE JUICE DEVELOPMENTS — FROST INSURANCE DECLINED BY GOVERNMENT.

Disease-Free Tomato Seed.

Arrangements have now been finalised by the Plant Diseases Division for the production in bulk of Tomato seed of the variety *Vetomold*, which possesses the valuable characteristic of being immune to Leaf Mould. The seed is being harvested from plants which are true to type and free from Bacterial Canker and Tobacco Mosaic, and quantities will be available to growers for next season.

The N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation has been appointed distributors and has undertaken to supply the seed to growers at a price which has been fixed by the Division. Stocks are being held at the head office of the Federation in Wellington, and branch offices in Auckland, Hastings, Port Nelson, Motueka, Christchurch and Roxburgh.

Continuance of Apple and Pear Acquisition.

The N.Z. Government has decided to continue the principle of assistance to the Apple and Pear industry by purchasing the crops.

This decision was conveyed by the N.Z. Minister for Marketing (Mr. Barclay) in a letter to the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation. The price was not stated. The letter concludes: "this will be made known as early as possible."

Testing Apple Juice Market.

In reply to the suggestion submitted by the Fruitgrowers' Federation that the N.Z. Government should establish a State factory for making Apple juice, the Minister of Industries and Commerce has advised that the Government wishes to be satisfied there is a worthwhile market for the product before expending some £60,000—the amount which would be required for such an undertaking.

Before taking any further action, it has been decided to give the Apple juice manufacturers already operating an op-

portunity to prove that sufficient demand exists to justify the expenditure on a State factory.

Frost Insurance Refused.

The recent request of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Conference for some form of frost insurance has been declined by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Barclay.

The Minister said that the proposal had been under consideration for a number of years, but he regretted that the many difficulties existing made the scheme impracticable at the present time.

—"N.Z. Orchardist."

CONTROL OF AGRICULTURE IN U.S.A.

Complete Mobilisation Projected

The U.S.A. Secretary of Agriculture (Mr. Wickard) recently announced plans for a 1942 farm production campaign to provide for complete mobilization of American agriculture, to meet domestic needs for defence as well as the needs of nations resisting aggression. The campaign will be under supervision of State and county defence boards, made up of representatives of all agriculture department agencies in the field. Regional meetings are being held to discuss the part that agriculture will be called on to play next year.

Western Australia

Carnarvon District.

Beans and Bananas.

In the Carnarvon district a very successful bean season has been experienced, excellent prices being realised throughout the winter months in the metropolitan market.

During the last 10 months, 27,718 bushels have been forwarded to the metropolitan area, compared with 15,144 bushels during a similar period last year.

The planting out of Banana suckers has also been keeping farmers busy in this district.

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ADVERTISING MEDIUM
BECAUSE OF ITS WIDE
AND COMPLETE
CIRCULATION.

ADVERTISING RATES ON
APPLICATION.

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Contents

	Page		Page
Illustrations.		Navy Bean Culture in South	
Stationary Spray Plant	6	Australia	22
Spraying Methods in U.S.A.	5	News of the Month	3
		New South Wales	7
Subjects.		Obituary	4
Apple and Pear Acquisition	9	Orchard and Vineyard Spray-	
Black Dot Root Rot of Toma-		ing	5
atoes	17	Orchard Storage Experiments	12
Canned Fruit News and Notes	19	Personal	3
Crop Prospects	4, 8, 19	Pig Pen	27
Cutworms, Control of	5	Poultry Notes	26
Dried Fruit News	23, 27	South Australian News and	
Fertilizers for Orchards and		Notes	15
Vineyards	22	Stationary Spray Plant	6
Gas Storage of Fruit	13	Supplementary Enterprises	
Goulburn Valley	19	for Orchardists	24
Home Notes	26	Tasmania	23, 28
Market Notes and Prices . .	25	Tomato Canning	20
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas	7	Victorian News and Notes . .	4
		Young Farmers' Activities . .	2

Index to Advertisers

	Page		Page
A.M.P. Society	14	Leggo, Victor, & Farmers Ltd.	6
Austin, H. C.	25	Lightning Fruit Grader Co.	
Bay View Fruit Picking Bags	19		Cover i.
Blyth Chemicals Ltd.	2	Melbourne Fruit Merchants .	26
Brisbane Fruit Merchants . .	25	Neptune Oil Co. Ltd.	4
Brookes Lemos Ltd.	19	Nobelius, C. A., & Sons Pty.	
Commonwealth Bank	12	Ltd.	12
Cooper, Wm., & Nephews		Paterson & Co. Ltd.	11
(Aust.) Pty. Ltd.	9	Producers' Co-op. Dist. Soc.	13
Dalgety & Co. Ltd.	16	Russell Burrows Pty. Ltd.	7
Electrolytic Refining and		Silbert, Sharp & Bishop	
Smelting Co. of Aust. Ltd.	7	Ltd.	15, 16
Excelsior Supply Co. Pty. Ltd.	20	Sydney Fruit Merchants . .	24
F. & M.G. Society	15	Trehwella Bros. Pty. Ltd. . .	18
Goodman, C. J.	11	U'Ren, Geo. A.	12
Harvey, Daniel, Ltd.	10	Vacuum Oil Co.	8
International Harvester Co. of		Werner, R., & Co. Pty. Ltd.	28
Aust. Pty. Ltd.	12	Wholesale Fruit Merchants'	
Jaques Pty. Ltd.	5	Association of Victoria . .	27

News of the Month

FRUIT AND HEALTH.

THERE WAS A TIME when fruit was looked upon by many people as a luxury. In recent years producers of fruit of all kinds have carried out publicity campaigns, based on medical testimony as to fruit being a necessity for the human system in order that people may receive needed vitamins and mineral salts. Fruit has considerable food value. The value of salads and vegetables has also been stressed for their health and food values. All this has had some favorable effect on public consciousness.

But it is uphill work in view of the weight of publicity by vendors of patent medicines and denatured "foods."

Recently over the radio came the pleasing voice of an announcer telling people of the need for vitamins and mineral salts. It was very convincing. But the climax came when the people were told that to obtain the needed minerals, all they had to do was to take a dose of so-and-so's tonic—which contained healthful minerals equal to twenty Bananas! The next night the "health" story was continued. This time their tonic was better than twenty Oranges; and on the following night one dose of tonic was better than twenty Apples—and continuing "Now you would not sit down to eat twenty Apples at once would you...." etc. Other food-stuffs were similarly mentioned—lettuces, cheese, eggs, milk, etc.

Is this truth in advertising? Other types of advertising of this character could be quoted. Is this benefiting the health of the community and assisting the war effort?

A doctor from the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, stated that 56 per cent. of the children who came in for attention were suffering from malnutrition: that mothers were urged to give the children more of nature's fresh fruit and vegetables instead of denatured foods: it was observed that most mothers had sufficient money to buy these goods but the money went into other

channels, denatured foods, patent medicines, etc.

So by false propaganda the health of the people is impaired, children suffer, more hospital accommodation is needed, taxes are increased. When will the people rise and demand legislation which will prevent a continuation of this folly.

In the meantime the need is all the more insistent for redoubled efforts to tell the people the true story of food values: of health and vitality obtainable only from nature's products.

PERSONAL

Mr. J. W. Aspinall has retired from the Secretaryship of the Southern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association after serving in this capacity for 22 years.

Mr. Aspinall is now in his 81st year. He is vigorous, of a cheery disposition, and very thorough in all that he does. Even up to last year, Mr. Aspinall visited schools in company with Mr. F. Beet and Mr. R. E. Boardman, and assisted in the distribution of Apples to scholars.

Among his varied activities he has been the organist at the Woodhouse Grove Methodist Church for nearly 60 years.

The Southern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association is fortunate in securing such a capable Secretary as Mr. H. J. Noonan, one whose services are well known as Secretary until recently of the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association. Mr. Noonan's ability was also observed in his capacity as a member of the Executive of the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association.

Hon. E. C. Sommerlad, M.L.C., Chairman of the N.S.W. "Eat More Fruit" Committee, has been away from his duties for several weeks through illness. Sympathy is expressed and the hope for a speedy recovery.

Mr. Noel V. Wade, of 16 Bridge-street, Sydney, has been appointed representative in Australia and New Zealand for the Manchester Ship Canal Co. in succession to the late Capt. W. J. Wade, M.B.E.

OBITUARY.

Regret is felt at the death of Mrs. Abel, mother of Mr. J. R. Abel, the present Chairman of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board, and we extend our sympathy to him in his bereavement.

Mr. T. Y. Norris, a well-known fruitgrower for years, died at his residence, Woodbridge, on November 22. His brother, Mr. Edgar Norris, is one of the largest fruitgrowers in Southern Tasmania.

To advertise Apples, growers in the State of Michigan, U.S.A., have decided on a levy of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per box. A law was passed making the payment compulsory. Collection is by means of stamps on packages, consignment notes and liners in boxes.

Victorian Crop Prospects Pest Control

HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS prevailing in Victoria during the month of November are reviewed in a report issued by the Department of Agriculture.

Satisfactory Apple crops are reported from most districts. Pears are more variable; in the Goulburn Valley, W.B.C. and Packham's are showing medium crops, while Josephine and Winter Nelis are light. The fruit is free from black spot infection.

Trees in the metropolitan area are carrying medium crops of Pears, but Packham's have thinned out considerably, particularly within the last few weeks. Black spot has increased

rapidly and on some properties where early sprays were missed, losses from this disease will be severe. Spot is also showing on Apples, but is not as severe on Pears.

Favorable weather has produced a prolonged period of codling moth activity. Growers have been fully engaged in spraying for the control of this pest and towards the end of the month, bands were being tied to the butts of Apple and Pear trees to trap emerging larvae.

Crops of canning Peaches in the Goulburn Valley are heavy and thinning out is in progress. Green Peach aphid has been fairly prevalent, but is not serious, despite the shortage of

nicotine sulphate which is used for its control. The canning Apricot crop is more variable, the Moorpark variety being light while others such as Trevatt and Shipleys are good.

Cherries are being harvested in the metropolitan area, and because of the labor shortage, some growers are finding difficulty in picking the fruit before it becomes over-ripe. Excellent quality fruit is being harvested in the Wangaratta district.

Raspberries and Loganberries have set very heavily. Large quantities of the first crop of Strawberries are now being picked. In the Swan Hill district, defoliation of citrus has been particularly severe, and it would appear that high salt concentration in the soil is partially responsible. High prices are being obtained for Valencia Oranges and deliveries are slow. A determined effort is to be made to control red scale by fumigation in the northern citrus areas this season.

Vine blossoming is later this year. Indications point to heavy crops of most dried fruit varieties. Losses from black spot are expected to be slight and the vines are now reaching the stage when they should receive a sulphur dusting to control erinose, vine mite or oidium.

VICTORIA.

Bairnsdale (10/11/41): Mr. G. W. Peart reports:—

Apples: The following is a preliminary estimate as to the fruit crop for the Bairnsdale area:—

The main varieties grown are Jonathan, Delicious, Granny Smith and Yates. These are moderate to good with an odd lot of Delicious and Jonathan fair to patchy.

Democrat and Gravenstein are light to fair, whilst other kinds are just moderate.

Altogether it is apparent that there is less fruit on the trees than at this time last year, but growers do not anticipate another Jonathan "drop" this crop nor for many crops to come.

Other fruits are chiefly Pears and Plums, which are showing for moderate crops.

This season was remarkable for the long time the blossoms of all fruits remained on the trees, probably due to the very cold weather throughout October.

Not much hand thinning will be required this season and all fruit on the trees should be able to get well past the minimum accepted sizes and be a good commercial quality free from blemish.

VICTORIA.

Pakenham Upper: Mr. W. H. Carne reports under date November 24:—The crop prospects in this district are as follow:—

Very little fruit other than Apples grown in the district. Crops will be considerably lighter

(Continued on page 23.)

**As Spraying is a Necessity
—then use the World's Best—**

NEPTUNE SPRAYS...

The better quality of **NEPTUNE** Sprays is always obvious by comparison with others. **NEPTUNE** Sprays conform to the highest standards, and they are consistently uniform in strength and quality. Successful Orchardists recommend them. *Try them yourself and prove that they're better!*

NEPTUNE WHITE SPRAYING OIL (SUMMER SPRAY)

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(Prepared Pale Oil)

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SOLUTION
(Clear, amber-coloured, free
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ARSENATE

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SNOW

GENUINE BLACK
LEAF 40

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NEPTUNE SPRAY
SPREADER



NEPTUNE OIL CO. PTY. LTD.

(Incorporated in N.S.W.) ALL STATES.

Control of Cutworms

—oOo—

An Effective Bait for This Serious Pest

DURING the past few months cutworms of several species have been causing a considerable amount of damage in the coastal districts of N.S.W. This injury was most noticeable during September, when conditions on the coast were abnormally dry.

In many instances, states the N.S.W. Agric. Gazette, young corn was attacked soon after appearing above ground, and a large percentage of the crop was destroyed. This was particularly noticeable where weed-covered ground had been ploughed only a few weeks before planting. The cutworms had been feeding on the weeds, and being deprived of this food, turned their attention to the cultivated plants.

Vegetable crops of various kinds were also attacked by several species of cutworms during the Spring, and during September a number of mature crops of oats grown for green feed had the flag almost entirely stripped from the stems by the army worm. This is a species of cutworm which has developed the habit of moving in vast armies through pasture and cultivation, frequently in one general direction, and in doing so devouring practically all green vegetation on the area traversed.

The name cutworm is applied to the caterpillars of a number of species of greyish-brown or black moths, which measure from one to one and a half inches across the outspread wings.

These caterpillars vary considerably in color even in the same species, and are soft-bodied, smooth, cylindrical, robust larvae generally varying from slatey-grey to nearly black and measuring up to 1½ inches in length at maturity. When touched they curl up in a char-

acteristic manner. Most species feed during the night and remain hidden beneath the soil during the day. Young plants are commonly cut off at ground level, hence the common name "cutworms." If the stems are too tough, the cutworms may climb up the plants and destroy the foliage.

The moths lay their eggs on grasses and weeds, so that frequently cutworms have hatched and are in the soil when the ground is prepared for cropping.

When the cutworms are fully-fed they make their way into the soil and change to a brown chrysalis or pupae and subsequently transform to the adult moths which are frequently to be seen flying about lights at night. Under warm conditions these insects may pass from the egg to the adult stage in approximately six weeks.

Control.

The following poison bran bait is very effective in controlling this pest:

Bran, 24 lb.; Paris green, 1 lb.; water, 2½ gallons; salt, 8 oz.

Instead of Paris green, white arsenic or arsenite of soda (9 oz.) may be substituted, but the bait is then much less attractive and effective.

Treacle (20 oz.) may be used instead of the salt. The addition of some finely chopped Lemons to the water, when mixing, renders the bait more attractive to the pest.

The bran and the Paris green (or white arsenic) should be thoroughly mixed while dry, and then made into a damp, crumbly mash with the water. If arsenite of soda is used, it should be dissolved in the water before mixing with the bran.



Spraying Methods in U.S.A.

The above illustration shows methods adopted for applying spray liquid for the control of red scale. The spray plant is equipped with a 500 gallon steel tank and elevating spray tower. It delivers 60 gallons per minute at 800 pounds pressure to the three guns in use. (Illustration by courtesy "California Citrograph.")

The mash can be spread along the rows of infested plants of broadcast through the crop, but in soil where cutworms are known to be already numerous the bait should be broadcast over the area at the rate of 50 lb. of prepared bait to the acre several days before the crop is planted.

It must be remembered that the bait is poisonous and should be kept out of reach of stock.

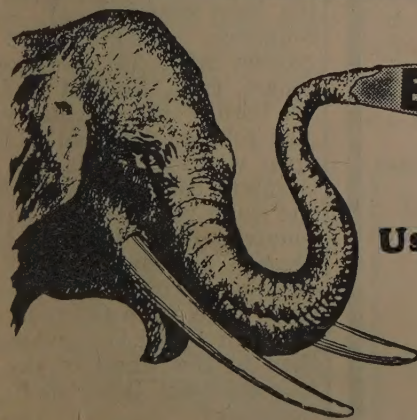
In the case of the army worm, a deep furrow, with the vertical side nearest the crop and cut in front of the advancing caterpillars, temporarily checks their progress. Holes can be dug at intervals in the furrow, and the caterpillars that fall into them destroyed. A log drawn along the furrow will crush a large number of the caterpillars, or they can be killed in the furrow by spraying with any oil emulsion.

WAX COATING OF FRUIT.

Improves Storing and Transport.

Following more than 600 tests made with wax emulsion, Dr. L. L. Claypool, of the Davis College of Agriculture (Calif.), states that under normal storage and shipping conditions, wax coated Nectarines, Peaches and Cherries, the fruit is delivered in good condition.

Except in cases when excess amounts of wax were applied, the waxed fruits were always at least equal in holding and eating qualities to the untreated control fruits. Furthermore, the waxed fruits usually remained in marketable condition after removal from storage or transit conditions longer than did the controls. Both the holding and eating qualities of Nectarines were improved by waxing although the holding qualities of Apricots seemed lowered.



Use

"ELEPHANT" Brand

Arsenate of Lead—Quality Stands Alone.

We can supply all your Spray Requirements—**ARSENATE OF LEAD (Paste or Powder), SPRAY SPREADER, SPECIAL COPPER MIXTURE, LIME SULPHUR, WHITE OIL, NICOTINE SULPHATE, RED OIL, Etc.**

Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: **CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS**—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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S.A.—Silbert, Sharp & Bishop Ltd., Rundle St. E., Adelaide.
W.A.—Westralian Farmers' Ltd., 569 Wellington St., Perth
N.Z.—Pizzev, McInnes Ltd., Box 1114, G.P.O., Auckland.

Tas.—Sole Agents, E. R. Cottier Pty. Ltd., Davey St., Hobart; Exeter, West Tamar; also at Devonport and Latrobe.

**Insist
Upon it !**

FRUIT GROWERS generally have come to depend on "Elephant" Brand Sprays. They find them absolutely reliable, efficient and of guaranteed quality.

Successful Stationary Spray Plant

ON GOULBURN VALLEY PEAR ORCHARD.

7½ H.P. ELECTRIC MOTOR USED.

OF ALL THE ORCHARDS in Victoria equipped with a stationary spray plant, it is believed that the largest is that of Messrs. Pullar and Nephew, at Ardmona. So agreeable was their first experience of a centrally located stationary spray plant (states "Victorian Rural Electrification News"), that its far-reaching advantages over the old horse-drawn spray cart were immediately appreciated, and another plant was installed in August, 1940, to serve 80 acres containing no less than 7,236 Pear trees.

Trouble Free Spraying.

A main objective in the de-

sign of this system was to make the operation of spraying as efficient as possible, one feature being the inclusion of a 2 h.p. motor coupled to an ordinary pump which delivers water direct to the spray vats for mixing.

This operation emphasises one of the many direct economies accruing from a stationary system, i.e., the saving of great waste of time and labor involved in hauling the spray cart back and forth from the water supply to the orchard. One man mixing in the shed can maintain all the spraymen normally employed on any one orchard. On

smaller orchards, e.g., where two spraymen are used, one man often works towards the shed so that he can attend to the mixing at intervals during a day's work with no actual stoppage of spraying.

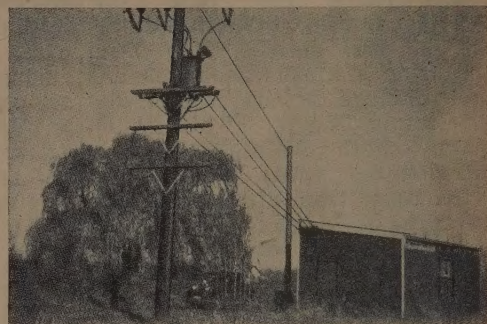
The proprietors of this Ard-

time for maximum pest destruction.

Fuel Costs Cut by 67 per cent.

Apart from substantial indirect savings resulting from correct timing of sprays and the reduction in spraying time, the management has achieved an

From this unobtrusive and neat shed pipes are reticulated throughout the orchard to 336 taps, from each of which a maximum of 35 trees is sprayed by means of 80 ft. of ½ in. triple braided moulded hose. The shed houses 2 700 gallon mixing vats with agitator gear driven by means of countershaft from the 16 gallon a minute spray pump which is driven by a 7½ h.p. motor.



mona orchard lay great stress on the fact that spraying is not held up by boggy soil, as is a portable cart, at the most critical spraying time. Spray is thus applied at the most opportune

astounding reduction in fuel costs.

The cost of fuel with the portable carts was 3/4 per 1,000 gallons of spray discharged, whereas by the stationary system 188,400 gallons of spray were applied last year at a total power cost of only £10/13/1, or 1/1½ per 1,000 gallons, including the cost of pumping water into the vats as described above.

Installation Costs Consistent.

Initial costs of this particular system amounted to £13 per acre, which is the average installation cost of all the other electrically driven plants in Victoria.

There are variations being due to differing pipe sizes used, location and cost of the housing shed, etc., and although this figure may be higher than that for a portable cart system in some cases, any such difference is soon offset by the additional efficiency of spraying. Depreciation on the stationary plant is also obviously less than that obtaining with the portable cart. —"Vic. Rural Electric News."

ABOUT LIVING SPACE.

Germany's Claim.

The Germans are always talking about requiring more living space, yet official statistics before the war show that she is the least crowded of several countries. Belgium led the crowds with 707 persons per square mile, Holland had 673, yet both were overrun by German soldiers who had to be fed upon what food was left after Germany commandeered all that she could rush back to her own country. Great Britain had 488 persons per square mile, Italy 355, and Germany 362. In 1914, there were more Germans earning their living in London alone than in the whole of the German colonies. What about that, Goebbels?

"VALLO" SPRAYS

BEST by TEST



Arsenate of Lead

Paste or Powder.

Package, 56 lb., 28 lb., and 4 lb.



Codlin Moth Tree Bands

Chemically Treated.

200 ft. Rolls.



Lime Sulphur Wash

Minimum Polysulphide Sulphur, 20 per cent. Package, 44 Gal., 4 Gal.



Copper Sulphate Neige

98/99 per cent.

Package, 1 cwt. and 56 lb.



Nicotine Sulphate 40%.

Guaranteed 40 per cent.

Package, 1 Gal., ½ Gal.



Prepared White Oil

89 per cent. Mineral Oil

Package, 44 Gal., 4 Gal.



Colloidal Sulphur

50 per cent. Sulphur, Weight for Weight. Package, Cases, 8 x 5 lb. Jars.

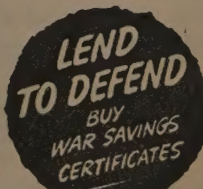
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New South Wales

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

CROP REPORTS -:- DISTRICT NOTES

(By Our Local Correspondent.)

Seasonal Conditions: Dry conditions continue with moderately cool nights and hot days.

The Area, like most of the State, experienced the worst dust storm for some time on November 18. No great damage was done, with the possible exception of setting Pears, which dropped rather heavily.

Shortage of Fruit Pickers: Following the visit of a Department of Labor and Industry Inspector to the Area recently, and advertised requests for growers to register their requirements, it would appear that the demand for seasonal workers will greatly exceed the available men.

A difficulty in assessing the exact position, is due to local men not registering. There is no obligation or compulsion to take a job if other work becomes available, but submitting their names will greatly facilitate their getting employment. Unless there is some response, it will have to be assumed that all local labor is engaged, and other arrangements will have to be made to meet growers' requirements.

Crop Prospects: This season's Granny Smith Apple crop promises to be fairly heavy following a very poor crop in 1939, and a light one last year. Red varieties of Apples are light generally.

Prunes are fairly light. Robes, as usual, being lighter than D'Agens.

Pears earlier promised to be heavy, but have since dropped heavily. However, fairly heavy tonnages will be registered.

Peaches again promise to be a record, as also are **Wine Grapes**.

Apricots are heavy in all parts of the Area and will keep growers busy in a week or two.

Apple Shortage: It is impossible to buy Apples in the local fruit shops.

New Zealand Citrus Export: Export of Valencia Oranges to the Dominion continues smoothly. Large quantities have been shipped via Melbourne as well as the usual route via Sydney.

Since the commencement of the Valencia season, Griffith packers have not had one single rejection, although many thousands of cases have been forwarded.

Apple and Pear Acquisition: Area growers have asked for a modification of the scheme to allow marketing of Granny Smiths, without restriction till March 1.

Local Parliamentary representative, Mr. A. G. Enticnap is to pass on to the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. W. F. Dunn,

a resolution passed at a meeting of members of the Leeton Fruitgrowers Co-operative Society last week, asking that the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme shall not operate on the M.I.A. before March 1 next, together with a number of other modifications of the scheme.

Opinions were expressed that the M.I.A. could not dismiss the scheme in its entirety. If its operations are withheld until March 1, some fruit growers will be able to profitably market early Granny Smiths on city markets as cookers.

The working of the Acquisition Scheme last season was criticised. That the inspection on the Area should be final, country trade be allowed, prompt settlement of fruit acquired made, and cool storage provided locally, were prominent among other requests.

District Railway Figures: One of the best barometers for indicating the prosperity of a district is the railway station, and we have pleasure in finding that the figures for the various M.I.A. stations show a big increase over the past 12 months. The earnings for the year ending June 30, 1941, are as follows:—

	Total earnings.	Increase.
Griffith . .	£59,565	£2,855
Leeton . .	79,582	6,512
Yanco . .	6,636	1,746
Yenda . .	9,388	2,062

Organising the Industry: At a meeting of the Leeton Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society, Mr. V. W. Letheren presiding, there was a full discussion on the subject of the organisation of the fruit industry on a State-wide basis.

Opinions friendly to, and critical of, the Fruitgrowers' Federation were voiced. The Federation as such goes out of existence at the end of this year. Some suggested the formation of a Union of Commercial Fruit-

growers, but the difficulty of collecting funds was recognised. It was pointed out that unless N.S.W. fruitgrowers set up a control organisation to protect their interests it was possible that other interests might step in and purport to represent the growers. A resolution was carried: "That this meeting of fruitgrowers is of the opinion that some control organisation is necessary to the industry."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOSFORD.

Successful Co-operative Enterprise.

SITUATED mid-way between Newcastle and Sydney, in a noted citrus-growing district, is Gosford, which has, over recent years, grown into a first-rate town with reclaimed foreshore, scenic parks, modern business premises, and good accommodation.

Gosford has, also, its own producer-consumer Co-operative—the Gosford Bulk Loading Society. It is an all-purpose society, and means a great contribution of saving and service to the district's men on the land.

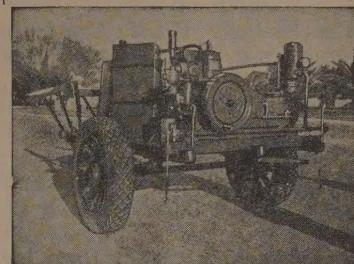
If you knew it in its struggling days, you would now find a new atmosphere of achievement and success, states "Co-operative News," with capable Mr. C. S. Scott (general manager) controlling the various departments — fruit packing shed, the bulk loading and marketing activity, flourishing general store, the hardware and machinery section, and the produce department.

Previous reverses, due to experiments, were replaced during the past six months by a net profit of £1,176, enabling the society to declare a dividend on purchases of 3d. in the £1 and 4 per cent. interest on capital. Retail sales totalled £29,060, as against £28,743 for last year's period. Creditors were decreased by £3,500, and £1,964 in expenses was saved. Shareholders at the last half-yearly meeting were very satisfied.

Bulk Loading and Marketing.

Instead of each grower sending to market separately his comparatively small crop and having to pay the maximum cartage rates, the society handles all the fruit and ob-

— THE — BAVE-U POWER SPRAYER



All models can be fitted with pneumatic tyres at little extra cost.

Write for Particulars

**Russell Burrows
Pty. Ltd.**

Box Hill, E.11 Victoria

tains concession rates; the product is sold in the society's own floor in the Sydney Market — the grower receiving a higher return than if he had to pay for individual freighting. A flat rate is charged by the society for this service.

Packing and Processing.

In society's packing and processing shed fruit is scrubbed, dry-polished and sorted into various grades by mechanical means. For the three months ending September 1, the shed has processed and packed 18,322 cases of citrus fruit, an increase of 7,000 cases over the corresponding period last year, and an all-time record.

Service to growers includes providing containers for their crops, also the offer of picking and carting.

Hardware Department.

In addition to selling agricultural implements, farm machinery and plant, this department packs its own motor oils and arsenate of lead and does a huge turnover in seeds. "Hardware" sold between £8,000 and £9,000 worth of goods last half-year.

Other Services.

The establishment provides an up-to-date grocery section, and with the development of drapery and footwear departments, the "G.B.L." store is giving all-round and appreciated service to its rapidly-increasing members.

In Preparing Your Bordeaux Sprays Use . . .

ESA BLUESTONE

— Manufactured by —

THE ELECTROLYTIC REFINING & SMELTING COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LTD.
PORT KEMBLA, NEW SOUTH WALES.

**The Right Material for Plant Disease Prevention and Control
GUARANTEED 99% PURITY**

GRADES—Mixed Crystals, Fines, Granulated (Snow), Packed in Suitable Containers for Growers' Requirements.

Agents for All States: ELDER SMITH & COMPANY LIMITED, All Capital Cities.

BOOKLET—"Better Yields by Spraying with ESA Bluestone" obtainable on application to Elder Smith & Co. Ltd.

Crop Prospects in N.S.W.

The N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture advises coming crop prospects as follow:—

Hawkesbury River: Apricots are medium. Santa Rosa Plums are heavy, Tuckers fairly heavy, Wilsons mostly light. Nectarines good to heavy. Apples moderate to good.

Oranges bloomed heavily and a good crop likely. Owing to low prices, many Lemons were not harvested; light Summer crop in sight. Mandarins appear patchy.

The Hills Districts: Glengarry Apricots are heavy. Wilsons Plums moderate to light. Peaches good. Apples good.

Navel Oranges bloomed heavily. Common Oranges have set heavily.

Windsor: Apricots good. Plums medium. Nectarines good. Apples good. Pears: Williams and Packhams moderate. Clapps Favorite, Keiffers and China are good.

Citrus trees bloomed well; trees are distressed in unirrigated groves. A heavy fall of main crop Lemons is taking place.

Kurrajong: Stone fruits are light to medium. Apples: Jon., G.S. and Fanny are patchy to good. Delicious are poor, Democrat, Mobbs Royal and Twenty-Ounce moderate, and Willie Sharp good. Pears are patchy.

Heavy bloom of citrus, but setting affected by dry weather.

Parramatta-Camden: Apples: Jon. and Delicious light, whilst McIntosh Red, Grav. and G.S. up to average. Pears: Williams, Clapps Favorite and Packhams heavy.

Vines in exhausted state — growers have pruned heavily. Summer crop expected to be very light.

Citrus trees are showing the effects of continuously dry weather.

Inland:

Bathurst-Blue Mountains: Stone fruits showing well. Apples—most varieties light, some crops of Jon., Delicious, Democrat and G.S. are failures. Pears very light.

Orange: Apples—G.S., Rome Beauty and Democrats good; Jon. and Delicious poor to medium. Pears — Packhams good, Williams poor to medium, other varieties poor. Plums patchy, crops being poor to medium. Peaches and Cherries good.

Goulburn: Apples light. Pears light. Apricots, Peaches and Cherries medium to heavy.

Young: Stone fruits are heavy. Apples—Rome Beauty and Delicious heavy, Jon. medium to good, Statesman moderate, Democrat and Cleo. light. Pears — Packhams good, Wil-

liams patchy, Josephines moderate to light and other varieties very light.

Batlow: Apples — Jon., G.S., Crofton, Yates and Dougherty good. Delicious, Democrat and Winesaps medium. London Pipin and Sturmer very good. Pears—Packhams, Williams and Winter Cole very good; Josephines patchy; Winter Nelis fair; Beurre Bosc light. Cherries heavy crops.

Leeton: Apricots (Trevatt) and Peaches good. Plums patchy. Apples good. Pears—Williams normal crop; Packhams fair to good.

Citrus: Navel and Valencia trees bloomed heavily. Old season Valencias moving out steadily at satisfactory prices. Many old crop Lemons remain on trees; disposals are slow owing to poor prices. Common Oranges bloomed heavily. Mandarins patchy.

Yenda: Apricots and Plums very good. Canning Peaches satisfactory. Apples—G.S. generally good. Jon., King David and Delicious patchy to poor. Cleos. good. Pears—Williams and Packhams fair.

Navels blossoming heavily. Marketing of Valencias proceeding.

Lismore: Passionfruit medium.

ORGANISING THE INDUSTRY IN N.S.W.

Growers Request State-Wide Conference to Consider Plans to Replace Fruitgrowers' Federation.

IN referring to the proposal for a fruitgrowers' organisation in N.S.W., the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Dunn) said recently that since the fruitgrowers, of their own accord, had voted against the continuance of the orchard tax, and, incidentally, of the Federation, the onus was now on them to indicate what type of organisation they required. As soon as he had representations that he considered came from a majority of the growers, he would put the matter before the Cabinet.

Conference Suggested.

Meetings of growers have been held in many country districts to urge the formation of a central organisation to take the place of the Federation, which expires at the end of the year. The Minister has received requests from most of these meetings that he call a State-wide conference of growers, representative of all districts, groups and types of fruit. Among the districts to pass resolutions to this effect have been Batlow, Orange, Young, Gosford, Singleton, Liverpool, Leeton, Oakdale and Dural.

A small boy was hurrying to school, and as he hurried, he prayed, "Dear God, don't let me be late—please, God, don't let me be late." Then he happened to stumble, and said, "You don't have to shove."

SNOWY RIVER PROJECT.

Expert Committee Appointed.

The N.S.W. Premier, Mr. McKell, announced in Cooma recently that an expert committee has been appointed to investigate the value of the Snowy River as a source of water supply for Sydney, and hydro-electric power.

The members of the committee are Professor Miller, of Sydney University; Mr. F. T. Farnsworth, chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board; Mr. F. H. Brewster, chief engineer of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission; Mr. S. W. Jones, principal engineer for water supply at the Public Works Department; and Mr. R. T. McKay, consulting engineer.

The committee will have power to co-opt any expert, and is authorised to make a thorough investigation of all schemes, including the report of overseas engineers on the Snowy River hydro-electric plan.

N.S.W. TOMATOES.

Co-operative Transport.

Under a recent agreement between the Banana Growers' Federation Ltd., and the Central North Coast Tomato and Vegetable Growers' Association, tomatoes and other produce from the Central North Coast area will be conveyed to the southern markets by fruit trains; this will provide an all-the-year-round transport service.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS.

Shows are scheduled for fruit districts as follow:—

New South Wales: 1942.

Tumut—March 3 and 4.
Coff's Harbor—March 10 and 11.
Crookwell—March 12-14.
Goulburn—March 19-21.
Camden—March 19-21.
Sydney Royal—March 30-April 7.
Bathurst—April 14-16.
Grafton—April 22, 23, 24.

Secretaries of the Show Committees in the several States are invited to send in particulars of the coming shows in their districts.

POWER ALCOHOL DISTILLATION.

Griffith Proposal Before Minister.

A deputation of Griffith (N.S.W.) associations and political parties recently approached the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. H. V. Evatt) with a proposal for the distilling of power alcohol in the Griffith district wineries.

The Minister said that he could see no reason for not utilizing the wineries and promised to make representations in Canberra.



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL CODLIN..



Protect your
orchard with

Gargoyle White Spraying Oil

Kill the grubs with arsenic (lead Arsenate) and kill the eggs with oil (Gargoyle WHITE Oil) using them together (they mix perfectly) to get the best results. It is possible to keep your orchard absolutely free by spraying with this combination at the right times. You may have to spray 5 or 6 times, but it will give your trees immunity, and you bigger and better crops. Ask always for "Gargoyle" to be sure of getting the highest quality WHITE Spraying Oil on the market.

VACUUM OIL COMPANY PTY. LTD.
(Incorporated in Australia)

Apple & Pear Acquisition

CONTINUANCE DECIDED, BUT DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE — GENERAL ACCEPTANCE BY PRESS & PUBLIC OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT — NEED STRESSED FOR HAIL INSURANCE.

A report from Canberra on November 25 indicated that the Federal Government would continue with some form of Apple and Pear acquisition, but that the details would not be determined before Parliament rose for the long recess.

Examination of press comments from various parts of Australia reveals the fact that notice has been taken of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report favoring the continuance of acquisition.

Hail-Damaged Fruit.

Mr. E. E. Sampson, President of the Fruitgrowers' Defence League, Orange, said that no scheme could ever be satisfactory which permits the destruction of 250,000 cases of hail-damaged fruit and 20,000 cases of "varieties considered unprofitable to handle," as happened last season.

The disabilities under which growers were suffering in connection with the marketing of hail-damaged fruit were stressed by the Secretary, Mr. E. Ray, at a meeting of Bathurst fruit-growers.

The meeting resolved that should acquisition be applied to the new season's pome fruit crop, the Government be requested to provide an insurance cover against hail damaged fruit; also that the Apple and Pear Board be asked to allow unrestricted marketing thereof, or compensation therefor.

In commenting on the statement by Mr. Sampson, of Orange, regarding hail-damaged fruit, Mr. H. V. Smith, Chairman of the N.S.W. Acquisition Committee, said that the Apple and Pear Board was not responsible for the destruction of the 250,000 cases of Apples and Pears referred to. "The grades of Apples acceptable by the Commonwealth Government were determined by a conference of Departmental officers from all States," Mr. Smith said, "and the policing of the grading regulations was carried out by the Department of Agriculture in each State. These grades provide for slight hail injury and other defects up to a diameter of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in 'Fancy' grade, whilst in 'Good' grade hail marks and other defects up to a diameter of $\frac{1}{2}$ in., on Apples up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, and hail marks and other defects up to a diameter of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. on larger Apples, were allowed.

"These regulations covered quite a degree of hail injury. Damage by hail in N.S.W. is sometimes severe, and the Department of Agriculture assessed the losses for the season as 250,000 bushels damaged to an extent below 'Good' grade. The

growers who were unfortunate enough to suffer injury were mostly at Kentucky and Uralla, where the losses were assessed at approximately 200,000 bushels out of the total of 250,000 bushels for the whole of the State. This hailstorm occurred in the third week of January, when the bulk of the damaged fruit had not reached maturity. It was destroyed, not by the Apple and Pear Board, but by nature.

Compensation Disallowed.

"At its meeting on January 7, the N.S.W. Committee of the Apple and Pear Board requested the Assistant Minister for Commerce to introduce an Australian-wide scheme of hail insurance. At a meeting on January 21, the Committee, acting on its own initiative, decided to deduct from advances to growers 1d. a bushel on Apples and Pears marketed to February 28, and 2d. a bushel on Apples and Pears marketed after March 1, in order to provide a fund to assist growers who suffered loss. Mr. Sampson apparently did not wish to contribute towards this fund, as he opposed the deduction. Neither the Commonwealth Government nor the State Government was prepared to legalise the deductions made, and eventually they were refunded.

"On the comparatively small quantity of badly hail-damaged Apples and Pears which had reached maturity," Mr. Smith continued, "the N.S.W. administration agreed that where a market could be found, a sale could be arranged through the

Board, and this was done to the limited extent that markets could be found.

"It is essential that, in any future scheme, definite provision be made for hail insurance, and in this regard a considerable amount of evidence was placed before the Parliamentary Committee by witnesses from New South Wales."

Tasmania Approves Committee's Report.

Gratification was expressed by the Premier of Tasmania (Mr. Cosgrove), who said that the continuance of the scheme would at least ensure that fruit-growers' working costs and living expenses would be met.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Baker) said it was generally appreciated that acquisition had saved the industry from chaos and that it should be extended to cover the rehabilitation period after the war.

Mr. J. R. Abel (Chairman of the State Fruit Board) pointed out that it was evident from the Committee's recommendations that the existing scheme had been carefully considered, and its continuance for the duration of the war would permit of planned marketing which would benefit not only the industry but consumers throughout the Commonwealth.

Support from Victorian Majority.

That the findings of the Committee were, on general principles, in accordance with the views of the great majority of Victorian growers was the opinion of Mr. G. W. Brown, Chairman of the Apple and Pear Growers' Protection Association. He added that the recommendation of the scheme for the duration of the war must commend itself to all thoughtful

persons, who realise that an industry which normally provided overseas credit of nearly £2,000,000 annually by the export of 50 per cent. of its production, must be assisted by the community when its entire export market is lost.

A N.S.W. View.

In referring to the idea held by some people that there should be more and cheaper Apples and Pears at this time of the year, Mr. A. E. Herring (Chairman of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association) stated that the quantity of fruit offering in the second half of the year is dependent upon the amount of available cool storage space, which is now less than in pre-war years.

As for retail prices, Mr. Herring stated that up to the end of June Jonathans of excellent quality were retailed in Sydney and suburbs at 6d. per dozen (or approx. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.) for smaller sizes, up to 1/- per doz. (or $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.) for the larger sizes. The subsidy on these Apples, plus incidental and transporting costs from Tasmania to Sydney, amounted to 8/6 per bushel, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., which was the minimum wholesale price at which the Apples could be commercially placed on the market.

Regarding free distribution, Mr. Herring mentioned that had the entire unmarketed surplus been distributed it could not have been done for less than £3,900,000; in fact, as a large part of this surplus occurred in S.A. and W.A., it would have cost considerably more. He suggested that fruit could be offered more cheaply to the public if the railways carried it at the same rate as Potatoes and other vegetables. At present it is $41\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. higher.

(Continued on page 11.)

FRUITGROWERS

Make sure of your results by using

STANDARDISED Spraying Materials



● Alboleum

(White Oil Emulsion)

● Arsinette

(Lead Arsenate Powder)

● Drymac

(Standardised Derris Dust)

● Wetsul

(Wettable Sulphur for Mildews)

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(Sticky Tree Banding)

● Bordinette

(Standardised Copper Fungicide)

● Katakilla

(Standardised Derris Wash)

● Nicotine

(A Standard Preparation)

(A Standard Preparation)

Obtainable at all Fruitgrowers' Associations, etc.

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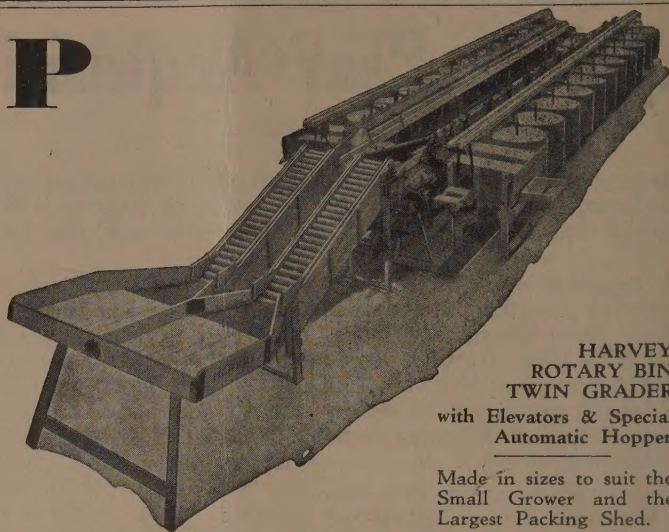
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INTRODUCING

Rotary Bin Grading Equipment

OUTSTANDING ADVANTAGES:

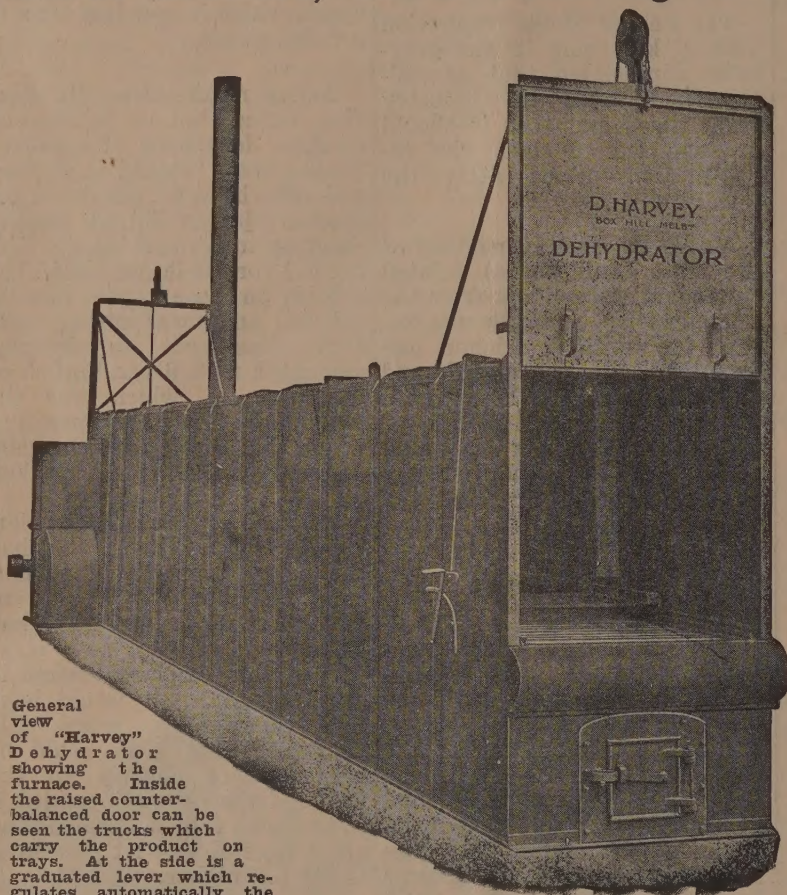
"Harvey" Rotary Bins considerably increase average daily output. Stem punctures and bruising eliminated. The packing surface in the bin slowly passes the Packer—no pawing of fruit by Packer. Packers average 10% to 15% more output per day with less fatigue. Handles the most tender variety of Apples and Pears without injury. Deflectors to run the predominating sizes into two or more bins—no time lost by throwing the major bulk of work on to one or two Packers.



HARVEY
ROTARY BIN
TWIN GRADER
with Elevators & Special
Automatic Hopper

Made in sizes to suit the
Small Grower and the
Largest Packing Shed.

Citrus Graders, Citrus Polishing Machines and Packing House Equipment



General view of "Harvey" Dehydrator showing the furnace. Inside the raised counter-balanced door can be seen the trucks which carry the product on trays. At the side is a graduated lever which regulates automatically the dry and moist air. The blower and stack are shown in the distance.

BRYTENE PLANTS
CITRUS PROCESSING PLANTS
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The "Harvey" Citrus Washing Plants

SAVE SPACE — CAN BE USED WITH HOT OR COLD WATER.

Fruitgrowers —

The "Harvey" Air Re-Circulation Dehydrator

Solves the Problem of Marketing The Fruit Crop

SUCH AS APPLES, PEARS, PRUNES, APRICOTS, PEACHES, SULTANAS, Etc

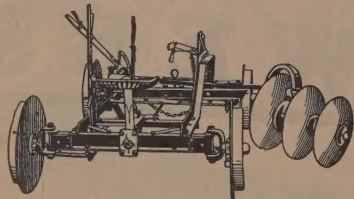
It is the best, cheapest, and most efficient type of dehydrator known. Used by all the most up-to-date Packing Houses and Sheds.

Large Output — Economical to Operate

The Fruit is placed in one end and comes out at the other dried to Perfection.

REMOVE SPRAY WITH THE "HARVEY" NEW HORSE HAIR BELT TYPE POLISHING MACHINE.

"HARVEY" IMPLEMENTS Make Good Work Easy



"HARVEY" built "PETTY" PLOW; Plows out strips which have not been plowed for years. Cuts through couch grass with the greatest of ease. Also plows up to the trees and in the centre. **DISC CULTIVATING GANG** can be attached in place of Disc Plow Gang.



"HARVEY" 3-FURROW TRACTOR POWER LIFT HBT MOULDBOARD ORCHARD PLOW: A one-man job. Built in sizes from two to six furrows



THE "HARVEY" LANCIA DISC PLOW is designed specially for the hardest kind of plowing. Low overhead clearance for low overhanging trees. Can be racked over for both plowing close up to and away from the trees. Equipped with the famous "HARVEY" Power Lift or Screw Lifts which are operated from the seat of the Tractor.

A HARVEY IMPLEMENT FOR EVERY NEED.

"HARVEY" CITRUS DISC ATTACHMENT

WITH HOOD FITTED TO WORK WITH "HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM TRACTOR DISC CULTIVATOR.

Cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. Specially designed to work right under the limbs up to the trunks of the Orange and Lemon trees. Will lift limbs loaded with fruit off the ground, cultivating to any predetermined depth, and then gently putting back in position the fruit-bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

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BOX HILL, VICTORIA

INTERSTATE REPRESENTATIVES—

N.S.W.—Tractors & Machinery Pty. Ltd., 131 Palmer St., Sydney.
S.A.—Silbert, Sharp & Bishop, Rundle St., East Adelaide.
W.A.—Paterson & Co. Ltd., St. Georges Terrace, Perth.
S.A.—Cole & Woodham, Box 12, Renmark.

Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.
Northern Tasmania—Max Geaves, 177 Brisbane St., Launceston.
Queensland: Buzacott (Queensland) Ltd., 443 Adelaide St., Brisbane.

Apple and Pear Acquisition (continued)

Misleading Statements.

The Chairman (Mr. Dickinson), at the annual meeting of the Young Cool Stores, contended that the Federal Marketing Committee had done "a wonderful job." He said that it is a pity that the industry has been saddled with so much adverse publicity about the loss of Apples.

"Talking Through Their Necks."

Mr. T. A. Tester, speaking at the same meeting, said that criticism came mainly from organisations such as the Housewives' Association, who were "only talking through their necks when they talk about wilful waste going on in the orchards."

He added that he had never heard of any of these organisations coming forward with a suggestion as to how the surplus crop might be effectively disposed of.

ACQUISITION OPPOSED.

The Editor,
"Fruit World."
Sir,

Mr. Baker finds it impossible to answer the facts and figures relating to the failure of the Apple and Pear acquisition scheme. When it is realised that the figures used by me were submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry by Mr. Baker and Mr. Soothill, an appreciation of the absolute impossibility of these gentlemen refuting these statements will be clear beyond doubt. I stated that as a direct result of the Board's instructions 7,000,000 cases of Apples and Pears were left to rot, and that the cost of marketing fruit under Board control was 4/6 to 5/- per case. Evidence to this effect was submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry, copy of which can be obtained by application to the proper authorities.

Mr. G. W. Brown (Red Hill) expressed resentment because certain interests favoring acquisition were not permitted to interrupt our speakers at the Melbourne Town Hall protest meeting. Once more we repeat our challenge issued months ago to any pro-Board supporter to debate on any public platform "That the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme is Detrimental to the Nation." Members of the newly-formed pro-Board Asso-

ciation evidently feel quite incapable of answering our criticism of the Board, so, in the style of all leaners, they are calling on the Board to refute that criticism. But the Board has no answer. Truth will withstand the severest criticism and come through unscathed.

Mr. G. W. Brown has the effrontery to take exception to the fact that Onion, Egg and Potato farmers spoke on the same platform as Apple and Pear growers. If Mr. Brown analyses the position he will find that these Boards have the same fundamental weakness as the Apple and Pear confiscation, i.e., the producer is deprived of all right of ownership in the product of his labor. It is not by piecemeal resistance to these aggressive measures that we shall regain liberty, but by united action. We intend to unite and feel certain of ultimate victory, secure in the knowledge that our cause is just, and that we have the support of the great buying public who always suffer from Board control of any industry. Those growers adversely effected from the closing of the export market can be compensated by a process less soul destroying than this Apple and Pear acquisition scheme. Those who feel that this is no time to be asking for assistance if it can possibly be avoided should be at liberty to stand on their own feet.

Yours, etc.,

Fruitgrowers' and Primary Producers Defence League of Australia.

(Sgd.) E. SERPELL,
Hon. Secretary.

Doncaster, 19/11/41.

Western Australian Federal Member Replies to Defence League.

Mr. J. H. Prowse, M.H.R. (Western Australia) has written to Mrs. Serpell, Hon. Sec. Fruitgrowers' and Primary Producers' Defence League of Australia, under date November 18, in the following terms:—

"I am in receipt of your circular letter conveying the resolution carried in the Melbourne Town Hall on 27th ultimo. All I can say is that I totally disagree with the resolution, and

the few producers around Melbourne take up a very 'parish pump' attitude. Their deduction as to the principles of democracy are at variance with facts. The very title of your League reminds one of the three Tooley Street tailors—'We the citizens of London.'

"What is there in Australia that is not controlled to-day? Are the manufacturers to be protected by tariffs and the wage earners by arbitration courts and the primary producers left to take their chance? One might admit that the work of the various Boards might be improved upon, but that is quite another question."

1942 ACQUISITION PLAN.

Proposed District Representation for Electing State Delegates

A deputation representing the Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association with the Fruitgrowers and Primary Producers' Defence League, met the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Hogan, M.L.A., on November 11.

In introducing the deputation, Hon. G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., said that the Cool Stores Association favored acquisition as a war measure.

The following joint resolution was presented:—

"That for the purpose of future conferences to deal with the Apple and Pear Industry called by the Federal and State Governments, the State of Victoria be divided into zones, delegates to be elected from each zone on a proportional basis by ballot of registered growers, each registered grower to be entitled to one vote. The Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association of Victoria to be entitled to representation, by two representatives, as the representative body of fruit cool stores."

Supporting speeches were made by Messrs. J. H. Lang, V. A. H. Clark and G. E. Handasyde.

The Minister, in reply, said that if the Federal Government requested a conference in Victoria, their representations would receive consideration. The difficulties in the way of conducting a ballot, however, were very great.

VICTORIAN GROWERS SUPPORT ACQUISITION.

Apple and Pear Growers' Protection Association Active.

A LARGE AND REPRESENTATIVE delegation waited on the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) on November 12, to support the Acquisition proposals.

In introducing the deputation, Mr. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., stated that there was no future for primary producers without orderly marketing. He had attended the recent Melbourne Town Hall meeting, which had objected to primary producers' control boards, but not one constructive proposal was put up—it was all "hot air."

Mr. G. W. Brown, chairman of the Victorian Apple and Pear Growers' Protection Association, said this organisation represented 1,400 growers who produced 2½ million cases of fruit. The acquisition scheme was necessary as a war measure and was keeping the industry in existence for when the men returned from overseas.

Mr. S. P. Cornish, Secretary, Northern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association, handed the Minister a list of 702 growers representing 5,600 acres producing 1,202,066 cases of Pears annually. They unanimously supported acquisition, although they felt that a higher price should be paid to growers because of increased costs of production.

Cr. Gaskin (Hastings) said, on a district poll being taken, there was an overwhelming majority in favor of acquisition, both on a grower and an acreage basis. A letter from the Shire of Glenelg requesting the abolition of orderly marketing schemes had been defeated by 12 votes to 3. Since acquisition there were less rates owing than ever before.

Mr. W. J. Williamson (Portland) said his district was 100 per cent. in favor of acquisition. The Board has been unjustly criticised.

Mr. J. Ahern, President of Gippsland Marketing Association, said that 85 out of their 87 members were in favor of acquisition.

The Minister: Is that the district where Mr. Clark comes from?

(Continued on page 12.)

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(Continued from page 11.)

Mr. Ahern: Yes.

The Minister: He has made more noise than the other 85.

Continuing, Mr. Ahern said he favored acquisition but he had some complaints regarding administration.

Strong support for acquisition was also expressed by Messrs. H. J. Willoughby (Tyabb), T. Black (Pakenham), C. H. Jost (Quantong) and W. P. Mair (Tyabb), Secretary of the Victorian Apple and Pear Growers' Protection Association.

During the addresses the Minister cross-questioned each speaker on the subject of cool storage and was assured that all the cool storage space in the State available for Apples had been filled to capacity.

Addresses in favor of orderly marketing and control boards were made by Messrs. Keith Dodgshun, M.L.A. (representing Victorian Wheatgrowers' Association), L. Pither, Shepparton East (Tomato Growers' Association), and James (Secretary, Metropolitan Dairy Farmers' Association).

Mr. N. Fairless (Shepparton) said that acquisition was successful in his district. The Board had no power to fix reselling prices, but was being blamed for the high prices of Apples sold to the public. When the Dried Fruits Act was first introduced he had strongly opposed it. He had since seen the error of his ways.

Supporting remarks were made by Messrs. W. Dunstone, A. J. Kirtton and M. Bennett, Ms.L.A.

In answer to Mr. Bennett re dried Apples, Mr. Brown said that the quantity of dried Apples this season had been trebled.

The Minister, in reply, stated that he was glad to hear from representative producers that they favored orderly marketing and especially from Apple and Pear growers who favored acquisition, as they had been silent for too long. The opposition came from a small minority of growers around Melbourne plus a number of agents and merchants. Acquisition was a Commonwealth matter. There were 12 million cases of Apples and Pears produced in Australia, of which half was usually exported, but owing to lack of shipping space the normal export of 6 million cases had ceased. Whilst there was a surplus of Apples last Autumn there was no surplus now, the quantity available being governed by the amount of cool storage space available. The only way in which it would have been possible to cool store all the Apples available would have been by the sacrifice of other primary products. He would support the acquisition proposals at the forthcoming meeting of the Commonwealth Council of Agriculture.

(See also page 14.)

ORCHARD STORAGE EXPERIMENTS

Because of Shortage of Cool Store Space, Tests Were Made in N.Z. Regarding Shed Stored Apples.

Report by Cawthron Institute.

THE CESSATION OF FRUIT EXPORT to Great Britain has involved great difficulties in the disposal of the New Zealand fruit crop. Practically all fruit must now be disposed of within N.Z., and the question of storage space for holding fruit for later consumption has become a serious problem.

With a view to assisting in a more efficient disposal of N.Z. fruit, a comprehensive series of orchard storage investigations has been carried out by the Cawthron Institute in collaboration with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The following varieties were selected for storage trials at the Annesbrook store: — Sturmer, Granny Smith, Statesman, Rome Beauty, Rokewood, Ballarat (Stewarts), Washington, Tasma and Dougherty. The experiments covered three picking dates for the Sturmer, Statesman and Granny Smith varieties, the use of oil wraps and different types of case liners. Officers of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and of the Cawthron Institute have prepared a detailed report covering the co-operative investigations during the 1939-40 season. The more important points emerging from the experiments are as follows:

The varieties Sturmer, Granny Smith, Statesman, Rome Beauty and Rokewood should be marketed by the end of June if appreciable loss and deterioration of quality is to be avoided. Ballarat (Stewarts) was ready for marketing early in July. Dougherty about the middle of July, and Tasma early in August.

Very good results in the control of "Wilt" in Sturmers were obtained from the use of waxed liners in the cases. This suggests the possibility of combining an early picking of Sturmers—thereby reducing the amount of ripe-rot—with the use of waxed liners for optimum storage results.

Low temperature in the store is the most important factor in determining the storage life of Apples.

Orchard sheds should be located in shady situations where temperatures are low.

It is probably desirable that atmospheric humidity should be fairly high, but cases and fruit should not be actually wet.

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GAS STORAGE OF FRUIT

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS WITH APPLES AND PEARS.

Valuable Experiments by C.S.I.R. in Conjunction with Departments of Agriculture and Co-operating Bodies.

GAS STORAGE has been successfully applied under certain conditions to the storage of Apples and Pears, and safe holding periods have been considerably increased. However, Peaches, Plums and Grapes do not, generally, respond favorably to this type of storage.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research reports as follows:—

For some years, home-grown Apples have been gas stored in England on a commercial scale, and this method of storage has aroused widespread interest among growers and others engaged in the fruit industry in Australia. This interest is primarily due to the remarkable progress in Great Britain, where the quantity of fruit in gas storage increased from nil in 1928 to nearly a million bushels in 1936. By this means, certain varieties of English Apples have been kept in good condition for twice as long as would otherwise be possible, but success has only been obtained after extensive investigations by officers of the Food Investigation Board of Great Britain. Results obtained in the gas storage of fruit in England cannot be applied indiscriminately to other varieties of fruit grown under totally different conditions, and it is necessary to test each variety independently before commercial application is attempted.

Gas storage is usually only successful in conjunction with refrigeration and consists essentially in varying the composition of the atmosphere so that it contains more carbon dioxide and less oxygen than occurs in ordinary air. Ordinary air contains approximately 21 per cent. of oxygen, 79 per cent. of nitrogen, and only 0.04 per cent. of carbon dioxide. But all fruits, even after picking, still consist of living tissue, and in respiration absorb oxygen from the atmosphere and give off carbon dioxide.

If the fruit is stored in a gas-tight chamber with an adjustable port for ventilation, the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere can be allowed to rise to any desired level and then maintained constant by controlling the ventilation. As most respiring fruits absorb oxygen and produce carbon dioxide in approximately equal amounts, the oxygen content of the atmosphere is reduced to the same extent that its carbon dioxide content is increased. Hence if the carbon dioxide is allowed to rise to 5 per cent., the oxygen falls to 21 minus 5, or 16 per cent. And if the carbon dioxide rises to 10 per cent., the oxygen falls to 21 minus 10, or 11 per cent. The latter atmosphere

has proved eminently suitable for gas storage of Bramley's Seedling Apples in Great Britain.

In making a chamber gas-tight, it has been customary in English gas stores to line the walls and ceiling with sheet iron and cover the floor with bitumen. All joints are then filled with grease. Owing to the scarcity of sheet iron under war conditions, other types of coating are desirable, e.g., bitumen preparations, a number of which are now on the market.

Apple Storage.

Gas storage in an atmosphere containing five per cent. of carbon dioxide and only three to five per cent. of oxygen has been recommended for some varieties Cox's Orange Pippin. This atmosphere cannot be obtained by controlled ventilation alone, of English Apples, particularly since if ventilation was restricted sufficiently to reduce the oxygen to five per cent., the carbon dioxide would accumulate to about sixteen per cent. Hence in this case it is necessary to circulate the atmosphere of the chamber over a chemical absorbent (such as milk of lime) which removes the excess carbon dioxide.

Experiments in Australia.

INVESTIGATIONS on the gas storage of Australian fruits have been carried out in Victoria, N.S.W., and Tasmania. In Victoria, the investigations have been carried out by the Division of Food Preservation, C.S.I.R., in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Agriculture; in N.S.W. by the Division of Food Preservation, C.S.I.R., in conjunction with the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture; and in Tasmania by the Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R., in conjunction with the University of Tasmania.

With regard to Apples, the investigations in Tasmania have been confined to atmospheres obtainable by controlled ventilation and have been primarily concerned with gas storage for periods of eight weeks or less, as the control of atmosphere in ships' holds has been mainly under consideration. The varieties Sturmer and French Crab have been found unsuitable for gas storage, as they are readily injured by three to five per cent. of carbon dioxide. The Sturmer is the leading Tasmanian variety and its liability to injury rather limits the application of gas storage in this State.

The Jonathan is by far the leading Apple variety in Victoria, and is also of importance in N.S.W. and Tasmania.

Gas storage of Jonathan Apples in five per cent. carbon

dioxide, sixteen per cent. oxygen, has practically eliminated Jonathan Spot, but apart from this, the keeping quality has not been appreciably affected. The value of gas storage in this variety is determined almost entirely by the importance of Jonathan Spot, and this disorder varies considerably in different districts and also from year to year.

Experiments on the gas storage of green cooking varieties such as the Granny Smith are giving promising results, since coloring and softening is considerably delayed, and Granny Smith Apples in Victoria have been held practically unchanged in color or firmness until December. This variety, however, in N.S.W. is very liable to superficial scald even when stored in oiled wraps.

A point to remember is that the liability to superficial scald is very much increased by gas storage, and it is always advisable to use oiled wraps (which considerably reduce this disorder) unless there is clear evidence that the variety is resistant. When gas stored, Jonathan Apples from Red Hill and Blackburn in Victoria have been practically free from superficial scald, but the same variety from Orange and Batlow in N.S.W. has been seriously affected.

Pear Storage.

Pears, which are normally picked green and hard, do not ripen in cool storage but only after removal to higher temperatures. Each variety has been found to have a characteristic storage life, which is the maximum period that the fruit can be kept in cool storage and still ripen normally on removal to higher temperatures.

Gas storage has generally resulted in some increase in the storage life of Pears, but the effect has varied considerably among different varieties.

The most striking results have been obtained in Victoria with Williams' Bon Chretien (W.B.C.), Bose, and Winter Cole Pears, the storage life of which has been approximately doubled by storage in five per cent. of carbon dioxide and sixteen per cent. of oxygen. Increases as large as these have not, however, been obtained in N.S.W.

The possibilities of gas storage in extending the canning season for W.B.C. Pears have been appreciated by a large cannery in Victoria, which has already equipped a refrigerated chamber for this purpose. Air storage at 32 deg. F. limits the canning season to ten weeks, as the storage life under such conditions is only ten to twelve weeks. By using gas storage this period can be approximately doubled.

Peaches, Plums, and Grapes.

Gas storage experiments have also been carried out on Victorian dessert Peaches. The storage life of hard, immature Peaches has been increased, but that of soft, semi-ripe Peaches has been generally reduced.

RURAL LABOR.

Army to Grant Leave to Trainees.

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) recently stated that because of the shortage of farm labor, universal trainees urgently required for harvesting will be given leave without pay from camp training. Applications should be made to commanding officers and leave would be granted "for the necessary and appropriate period" subject to the agreement of the soldiers concerned.

This result gives no foundation for commercial gas storage, as it is practically impossible to pick Peaches to an exact stage of maturity.

Generally, Plums and Grapes have not responded favorably to gas storage. The storage life of Plums has in most cases been definitely reduced, and some varieties have been injured by as little as two per cent. of carbon dioxide.

For

Successful Gas Storage,

the temperature and composition of the atmosphere must be properly controlled, and the fruit should be gas stored within about four days of picking. In the Australian experiments, the most suitable temperature for gas storage has been found to be the same as that adopted for ordinary air storage. Pears are best stored at 31 deg. F. or as low as possible without risk of freezing. Jonathan Apples are very liable to soft scald and breakdown at 32 deg. F., and, to avoid these disorders as much as possible it is preferable to store at 36 deg. F. until the middle of May and then at 32 deg. F.

The atmosphere adopted for gas storage must be strictly controlled to avoid excess of carbon dioxide or too low a concentration of oxygen, otherwise various forms of internal injury may occur. "Brown Heart" in

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Apples occurs as sharply defined brown areas within the fruit, and it cannot generally be detected without cutting.

In Pears ripened after gas storage, hard areas have been found surrounded by soft, ripe tissue and the term "hard heart" is appropriate for this disorder.

An atmosphere containing five per cent. of carbon dioxide and sixteen per cent. of oxygen is generally the safest to use, and it is advisable to keep strictly to this atmosphere to avoid injury to Jonathan Apples.

In the case of Pears, several varieties have developed "hard heart" when stored in ten per cent. of carbon dioxide and eleven per cent. of oxygen, but there is evidence that they can stand these conditions for an initial period, after which the carbon dioxide must be reduced to five per cent. For W.B.C.

Pears this initial period would be not more than three months.

It is necessary to emphasise the importance of prompt gas storage, as Pears which have been stored for some weeks in air are very liable to injury in subsequent gas storage. These conditions are most liable to arise when Pears are shipped in badly ventilated holds after being first held in local cool storage, but care must also be taken to avoid them if gas storage for local marketing is attempted.

"Well," asked the landlady, showing a prospective lodger her best bed-room, "what do you think of it as a whole?"

"Oh, I suppose it's all right as holes go," was the reply, "but it was a bedroom I wanted."

(Continued from page 12.)

Apple and Pear Acquisition

Government Decides on Continuance for 1942

CONTINUANCE of the Apple and Pear acquisition plan for 1942 has been decided upon by the Federal Cabinet. The Commonwealth's liability will be limited to £1,000,000. Previously it was unlimited.

Changes in the scheme itself and in methods of administration are under consideration.

Senator Fraser, Assistant Commerce Minister, said the Government had been influenced by the unanimous report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the recommendations of which the Government would require the Marketing Board to adopt. Acquisition would commence on January 1, 1942.

Other proposals considered by Cabinet and the attitude adopted toward each were summarised by Senator Fraser as follows:—

(1) To discontinue acquisition: It was felt that to take this action in view of the disappearance of the export market would create chaotic conditions in the industry. Some States might escape with slight disadvantage, but the industry as a whole would be destroyed.

(2) The Government might acquire or buy the estimated export surplus of Apples and Pears: To do either of these things the Government would have to establish an agency to seek out the export surplus. This was absolutely impossible, and the Government therefore had to abandon this type of scheme.

(3) Government purchases to constrain the market: This would be one of the most wasteful forms of Government intervention, because it would necessitate wrapping, packing, and storage of the total crop.

The Government would be expected to buy fruit constantly to maintain a remunerative level of prices, and the Government could not dispose of the fruit it bought, because that action would destroy the price.

SYDNEY TRADE INVESTIGATION.

A mild sensation was caused by the announcement at the end of November of the Minister for Commerce that he had authorised the seizure of the books and records of several Sydney firms associated as selling agents with the Apple and Pear acquisition, also records kept by the State Superintendent. Details of transactions are to be examined, and the Minister stated that this would take about a month.

ACQUISITION POLL IN QUEENSLAND.

Close Voting.

A recent ballot of Queensland Apple and Pear growers who last season marketed through the Apple and Pear Marketing Board disclosed that, although by a slight majority growers were against acquisition as a war-time measure, 52.6 per cent. were in favor of and 47.4 per cent. against the continuance of the Board as conducted last year provided that certain minor modifications were made.

By a slight majority, growers were in favor of the exemption of Queensland Pears from acquisition.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMBER OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES.

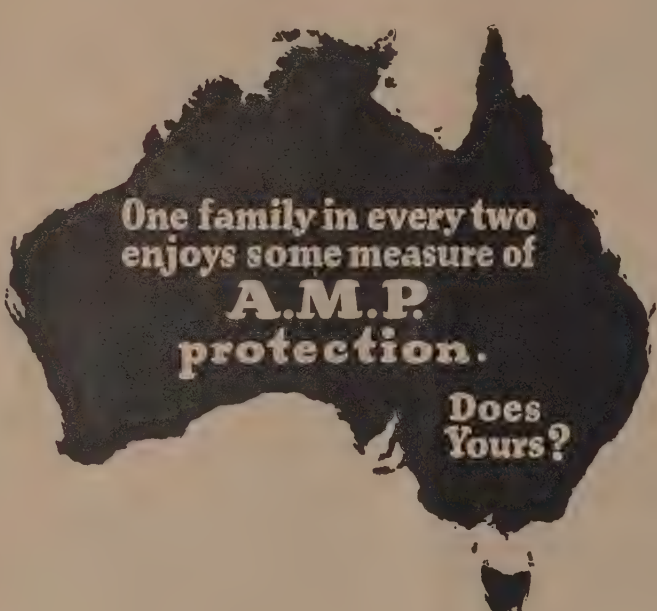
Recommendations Re Acquisition Programme.

The Commonwealth Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries recently conferred with Senator the Hon. J. M. Fraser, Assistant Minister for Commerce, regarding the Apple and Pear Acquisition Plan for 1942, supporting the proposals for assistance to the growers as a war measure and the setting up of a Board of three members. (a) A chairman and general manager experienced in organization, not connected with private trading. (b) A man possessing extensive knowledge of marketing. (c) A commercial grower.

The following proposals were made by the Chamber:—(a) The appointee could be a man now engaged in trading but who severs his connection therewith. (b) The appointee should have expert knowledge of internal marketing.

The Advisory Council and State Committees should consist of men with internal marketing experience. State Committees should be set up in Tasmania and Western Australia as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee but for Victoria the constitution should be two growers, two wholesale distributors, a representative each of the Department of Agriculture and the consumers; N.S.W., Queensland and S.A., one grower, three agents and a representative each of the Department of Agriculture and the consumers. Emphasis was laid on the need for the inclusion of men experienced in local selling because this was the major activity.

The setting up of Board selling floors was opposed as unnecessary: the normal channels of trade should be used and fully developed. The Chamber asked for an opportunity to peruse and discuss any proposed regulations before gazettal, and that the Board when formed should confer with the Chamber to secure a co-ordinated scheme for 1942.



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South Australian News and Notes



Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association

S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

THE Executive Committee of the above Association met in the Board Room, 288A Rundle-street, Adelaide, on Friday, November 28, 1941, at 10.30 a.m.

The Vice-President (Mr. R. A. Cramond) occupied the chair.

There were present Messrs. L. B. Pfeiffer (Woodside), A. O. Petersen (Upper Sturt), H. N. Wicks (Balhannah), A. Stafford (Lenswood), C. Ragless (Sturt), H. W. Parsons (Marion), B. A. Schapel (Lobethal), M. Floyd (Cambelltown), G. H. Schultz (Lenswood), W. J. Bishop (Basket Range), Legh. Winser (Blackwood), A. E. Brealey (Paracombe), N. T. Hobbs (Paradise), W. H. Ind (Paradise), G. Jennings (Underdale), G. Clifton (Paracombe), H. B. Robson (Hectorville), J. Turner (Blackwood), L. J. Wicks (Highbury East), A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist).

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. Stanford (Seaton Park), M. Packer (Paradise), J. B. Randell (Gumeracha), H. N. Western (Marion), M. J. Vickers (Lenswood), N. Edwards (Marion), C. J. Pitt (Ashbourne).

Minutes of October meeting read and confirmed.

President: Mr. R. A. Cramond (Vice-President) explained that he was occupying the chair owing to the illness of the President, Mr. C. J. Pitt, who has applied for three months' leave of absence.

The meeting expressed its regret at the President's illness, and granted his request for three months' leave of absence.

The sympathy of the members was also expressed to Mr. W. J. Bishop on the passing of his father.

Women's War Service Council: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported, as directed by the last executive meeting the sub-committee appointed had conferred with the President and Secretary of the Women's War Service Council re female labor in orchards. A clear understanding in this matter arose from the conference, and growers desirous of utilising female labor were advised

to make early application to the Council.

Female Labor in Packing Sheds: Mr. L. Winser moved: "That the matter of a uniform rate of pay for female packers in cool stores be referred to the Cool Stores' Association, for consideration." Seconded Mr. J. Turner. Carried.

Insurance: The Secretary reported that the matter of a comprehensive gardeners' policy had been taken up with the General Assurance Corp., and when a reply was to hand it would be submitted to the executive for consideration.

Correspondence.

Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee: Letter from the Committee seeking information as to estimate of increase in production costs of soft fruits in South Australia.

Mr. A. Floyd moved: "That the growers' representative on the Sugar Concession Committee be advised that production costs in South Australia have increased approximately 30 per cent., principally in wages, and owing to a short crop of Peaches, but the chairman of the Soft Fruit Section be consulted on the matter before the letter is forwarded." Seconded Mr. W. J. Bishop. Carried.

Cheer-up Society: Letter from the Cheer-up Society advising that an opportunity market will be held in the New Market, Adelaide, on December 13, and asking if the Association will be prepared to decorate the dais on which His Excellency the Governor will open the market.

Resolved that the Cheer-up Society be advised that the Association prefers individual donations of fruit and vegetables to the market rather than any decorative effort.

Mr. L. J. Wicks moved: "That the growers be circularised seeking their assistance to the effort of the Cheer-up Society, either by way of cash donations or by gifts of fruit and vegetables." Seconded Mr. G. H. Schultz. Carried.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Fruitgrowers' Society Limited: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported

continued satisfactory progress of the Trading Society.

Cherry Section: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the Annual General meeting of the Cherry Section had been held at Ashton on Friday, October 31, when officers for 1941-42 had been elected, and preliminary arrangements for the coming season were made. Early varieties were patchy, but late varieties were medium to good. He had visited Melbourne, and completed satisfactory arrangements in connection with factory Cherries. Difficulty was being experienced in securing freight to the Perth market.

Tomato Section: The Secretary reported that the Tomato Season was at its height, and was progressing satisfactorily.

Celery Section: Mr. N. T. Hobbs reported that the celery season was finished and the final committee meeting for the season would be held on Friday, December 5.

Citrus Section: Mr. L. J. Wicks reported that Oranges were in short supply, but prices were satisfactory.

Soft Fruit Section: Mr. A. Floyd reported that the soft fruits crop was generally lighter than last year with the exception of Apricots, which were good. A system of cart notes was to be experimented with this season, and growers were advised that the books could be obtained at the Association offices.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. R. A. Cramond reported that the annual general meeting of the section was held during November, when Mr. M. Vickers was re-elected as chairman, and a new committee appointed. Acquisition for 1942 was discussed and representations for increased value was made to the Federal authorities, through the South Australian Prime Minister.

Marion Branch: Mr. W. H. Parsons reported that the membership of the branch was swelling, and the operations of the branch were progressing very satisfactorily.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer reported that planting of potatoes was now in progress, but the labor shortage was a problem. The Committee of the branch were desirous of setting up a certain standard of potatoes on the local market, and in this respect had ap-

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proached the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. G. H. Schultz moved: "That in connection with the proposal of the Onkaparinga branch to set up a potato stand on the local markets, the scheme when formulated be submitted to the executive for consideration." Seconded Mr. J. Turner. Carried.

Paracombe Branch: Mr. A. E. Brealey reported that the Apple season in the Paracombe store was practically finished. The store had processed practically one-sixth of the State's output. The Society was extending its store to provide for greater storing facilities.

Field Day: Mr. H. N. Wicks advised that he was conducting a field day on his property at Balhannah, when 35 members of the Marion branch would attend. He extended an invitation to any member of the Executive Committee to also attend if they so desired.

Farm Produce Agents' Act: Mr. R. A. Cramond advised that a Bill to provide for a Farm Produce Agents' Act had been before the House of Assembly in the dying stages of the last Parliamentary session, but had been adjourned. He suggested the Association giving further consideration to the matter.

Resolved, that a Committee be formed, consisting of the Chairman of the various sections and branches, Chairman, Secretary and L. J. Wicks, to consider the matter.

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S.A. FRUITGROWERS' & MARKET GARDENERS' ASSN.—(Continued).

December Meeting: Owing to the Christmas season it was resolved that the December meeting be held on December 19.

Holiday Markets: The Secretary submitted list of suggested Christmas markets drawn up by the Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange. The markets and times set out met with the approval of the meeting.

Uraidla Show: The Chairman advised that the Uraidla Show Committee would, in February next, conduct a Patriotic Carnival in lieu of the Annual Show. Membership would be invited and the proceeds would go to patriotic funds.

APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS' MEETING.

ON November 19 last the Apple and Pear Section of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. Inc. met in the Board Room, 288a Rundle-street, Adelaide, when the Chairman (Mr. M. J. Vickers) presided.

The Chairman reviewed the activities of the section during the past twelve months.

Officers for 1942 season were elected as follow:—Chairman: Mr. M. J. Vickers. Committee: Messrs. J. Turner, H. N. Wicks, F. F. Redden, R. A. Cramond, H. H. Schultz, S. M. James, A. E. Brealey, J. B. Randell, A. O. Petersen, H. F. Lock.

Delegates to Executive: Messrs. M. J. Vickers, M. Hannaford, S. M. James, L. Winsor, C. Filsell, G. Clifton, F. F. Red-

den, H. H. Schultz, A. Stafford, W. G. W. McLaren.

In discussing acquisition for 1942 season it was considered that payments to growers should be greater than during 1941. This advance was considered necessary owing to increased costs of production, a light off-year crop, and the ability of South Australia to dispose of the prospective 1942 crop.

A resolution that representations along the above lines be made through the Premier of South Australia who was at present attending a conference in Canberra.

A resolution was also passed favoring the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee re growers being given more power in the picking of fruit.

It was also recommended that the principal of grower sellers from licensed packing houses as in operation last season be retained for 1942 season.

SOFT FRUIT GROWERS' MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Soft Fruit Section of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. Inc. met in Adelaide on Friday, November 14 last, when the Chairman (Mr. L. G. Pethick) presided.

The Chairman, in his report, gave a resume of the activities of the section over 1940-41 season, and stated that in view of the heavy crop last season, a satisfactory year had been experienced.

Officers for 1941-42 were elected as follow:—Chairman: Mr. L. G. Pethick. Deputy Chairman: Mr. W. Turner. Committee: Messrs. F. Hughes, C. Neale, A. F. Floyd, A. Elliott, H. N. Western. Price-fixing Committee: Messrs. H. N. Western, C. Neale, W. Halstead, A. Elliott and F. Hughes. Delegates to executive: Messrs. F. A. Wicks, L. G. Pethick, H. Hughes, H. B. Robson, A. Floyd.

It was agreed that the price-fixing committee meet in the market at 5.45 a.m. each market morning. Crop prospects were given to the meeting by the various districts' representatives, and generally speaking it appeared as if the crops would be as follows:—Apricots, good; Peaches, light to medium; Plums, Japanese medium; Nectarines, medium.

In view of the lighter crop and the increased costs of production it was decided to write to the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee seeking an increase in the processing price for 1942.

Mr. A. C. Gibson, representing Mr. H. M. Western, introduced for discussion a scheme for the stabilisation of prices on the local markets by means of a cartnote system. After lengthy discussion it was resolved that the scheme be tested this season, and the Association secure books appropriately designed for the purpose.

The practice of past years of showing "Cases Extra" on price

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tickets was to be retained following a resolution to that effect.

New Selling System to be tested by Soft Fruit Growers.

At the annual meeting of the Soft Fruit Section, held November 14, 1941, Mr. A. C. Gibson representing Mr. H. N. Western, of Marion, introduced for discussion a scheme whereby during the coming soft fruit season, sales effected in the local markets would be accompanied by a specially designed cartnote.

A suggested form of the cartnote was submitted, and following a lengthy debate the meeting decided to have printed a number of cartnotes books, and issue same to growers who are prepared to try the scheme out.

Under the suggested scheme the fruit will be priced per package, the cases not being shown as extra to the value of the fruit, but provision is made on the cartnote for a credit for cases returned.

This scheme is considered to be a means of overcoming the case position which for years has been a problem to fruitgrowers, and it is hoped that soft fruit growers as a whole will avail themselves of the opportunity of surmounting this problem by giving the proposal scheme a thorough tryout.

POWER ALCOHOL FROM DRIED FRUITS.

Sth. Aust. Enterprise.

The Tarac Manufacturing Co. in the Berri district, has already treated 800 tons of dried fruit tailings for the extraction of power alcohol.

This company set up its plant four years ago, near the Berri Winery, with the object of treating products of the winery for cream of tartar, the period of operation covering just over three months. Now the company is operating for the whole year and not only recovering the cream of tartar, but in addition, manufacturing thousands of gallons of power alcohol for commercial use.

PALESTINE CITRUS GROWERS SUFFER LOSSES.

Palestine citrus growers have suffered such serious losses as a result of being unable to export fruit, the major outlet for their large volume, that groves have been abandoned on a considerable scale and production this season has been reduced to an estimated 8,000,000 boxes. It was expected, reports the Department of Agriculture, that production this year, based on conditions prior to the war, would be about 19,000,000 boxes.—"Citrograph."

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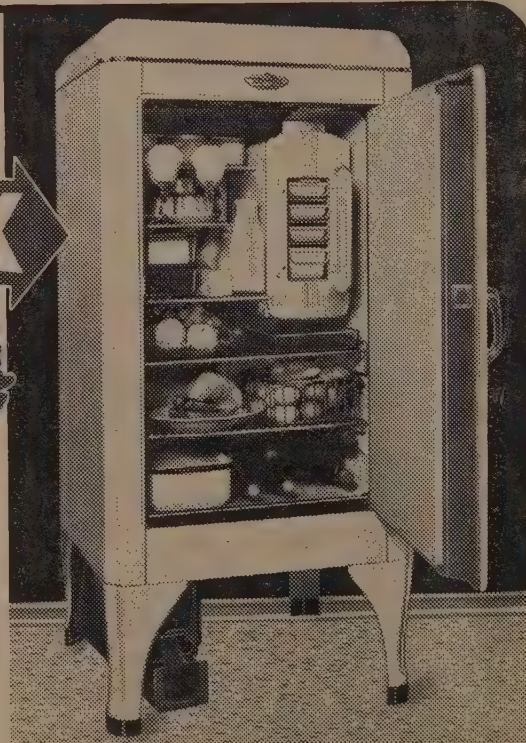
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The South Australian Fruit Marketing Association

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on November 28.

There were present Messrs. J. B. Randell (Chairman), D. W. Hannaford, M. G. Basey, H. N. Wicks, C. L. Winzer, R. G. Hannaford, R. B. Pritchard, A. Brealey, R. H. A. Lewis, P. R. B. Searcy, A. O. Petersen, S. M. James, A. G. Strickland, R. O. Knappstein, F. F. Redden, and the Secretary, Mr. E. W. Mills.

Duchess Pears: The S.A. State Acquisition Committee wrote stating that the Association's letter re Duchess Pears for canners had been referred to the Board, and the following reply had been received:

"The Acquisition Order does not apply to Duchess Pears which are intended to be used for canning and therefore fruit delivered to canneries cannot be recognised under Acquisition. The good grade allowance relates only to acquired Pears of fancy grade."

It was agreed to ask the State Committee to go further into this matter, and to check off, as a test case, Mr. Redden's full deliveries, and thus ascertain if growers who had delivered fruit to canners were penalised, particularly in view of the early instructions given in regard to Duchess Pears.

Annual General Meeting: As no definite information is yet available in regard to 1942 Acquisition, it was decided to leave the matter of fixing the date of the annual general meeting in the hands of the President. If information in regard to the scheme was available in time, a meeting to be called for Friday, December 19, otherwise it would be deferred to a date to be fixed in January, 1942, and in this case the Executive Committee would not meet at all in December.

Cold Storage of Fruit.

Mr. M. G. Basey presided at the meeting of the Growers' Sub-Committee on November 28.

Mr. D. W. Hannaford spoke on "Cold Storage of Fruit." He stated that the earliest method of storing fruit on shelves in sheds involved very heavy waste, the next stage was case storage when petrol cases became available. Then followed the early export of Apples, and although the methods of packing were primitive, they were effective, and excessive waste was reduced as the result of establishing export markets.

The application of cold storage to Apples started about 1913-14, and this enabled the Apple industry to take its place as a primary producing industry as it provided a continuity of supply to be maintained at payable prices. The success of cold storage depended largely on fruit

being delivered to the store with a maximum of "life" to ensure a satisfactory out-turn. He had conducted various experiments at Cudlee Creek and Blackwood, particularly in regard to the humidity necessary to give the best results, but there were many problems still to be solved, and much experimental work would have to be done.

Codling Moth Traps: Mr. A. G. Strickland submitted the following figures for traps at the Blackwood Orchard on the previous day, which constituted an all-time record:—

Wine	348	—	29
12			
Molasses	266	—	22
12			

S.A. DRIED FRUIT BOARD.

A meeting of the S.A. Board was held on November 28, 1941. The Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss) reported that since the last Board meeting a short amending Act had passed both Houses of Parliament, making provision for payment of Board Fees and Expenses. Draft regulations in pursuance of the amending legislation were settled.

In reply to the Board's desire to collaborate with the Processing Committee which was set up by the S.A. Packers' Association, it was agreed to appoint Mr. J. R. Jemison as the Board's representative on such Committee.

In the matter of dried Plums, Secretary submitted memorandum supplying survey of the position in South Australia and setting out the approximate number of growers, the quantities and varieties of Plums dried for marketing and the quantities diverted to jam manufacturing together with recommendations. The memorandum was received and it was agreed to supply copies to the New South Wales and Victorian Dried Fruits Boards.

The severe storm late in October in the Kingston, Moorook and adjoining areas was referred to, and the replies by Packing Houses to the Board's letters of sympathy with the growers affected, were received.

The Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) reported that he had directed the Secretary to attend a conference held in Melbourne on 21/11/41 of representatives of the Board, the A.D.F.A. and the Department of Supply in the matter of Commonwealth acquisition for service purposes of 1942 season's dried tree fruits. Secretary submitted his notes of the proceedings.

Minutes of Special (Interim) Meeting of the Consultative

Black Dot Root Rot of Tomatoes

(By T. T. Colquhoun, M.Sc., Plant Pathologist, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, in the S.A. "Journal of Agriculture.")

DURING 1935, Black Dot disease caused considerable trouble in some commercial glasshouses in the Adelaide district. This disease is caused by a fungus, *Colletotrichum atramentarium* (B. & Br.) Taub., which attacks the roots and basal portions of the stem. In the later stages of development it can be recognised by the presence of small black dots on the wood and bark of the rotted roots. In one of the glasshouses inspected, the disease was uniformly distributed throughout, offering an excellent opportunity to investigate some factors connected with the subsequent development of the trouble. Supplementary to the glasshouse experiments, pot experiments were conducted at the Waite Institute to determine how long the diseased plant parts could remain infective under varying conditions of moisture.

Glasshouse Experiment.

The experiment was conducted in a glasshouse in which the centre posts were spaced approximately 7ft., dividing the house into 21 compartments or bays, which formed convenient units for taking data. Half way along the length of the house it had been necessary to alter the soil level to facilitate irrigation, so that it was possible to water the northern half of the house independently of the southern portion. The drop occurred in the eleventh bay, thus giving 2 sections each with 10 bays divided by a complete bay—number 11. In planting the house, 9 rows of plants were used, so that the third, fifth, and seventh rows roughly coincided with lines which divided the house into four equal areas lengthwise. Consequently, rows number 2, 4, 6 and 8 were in the centre of each strip and were bordered on each side by another row.

On February 15 and 17, 1936, the northern end of the house was heavily watered. On the 19th, 42 groups of tomatoes—metre samples—were collected at systematic intervals throughout the house for examination of the incidence of disease. Of the 87 plants so examined, 72 had their roots badly rotted and

10 showed slight rotting, i.e., 94 per cent. of the plants had infected root systems. Following this examination, the remainder of the plants were removed in the normal manner prior to cultivation, which was carried out on the two succeeding days. Two of the longitudinal strips—those in which rows 2 and 6 would subsequently be planted—were rototilled, whilst the remaining two were forked over without breaking down the clods. In the moist soil at the northern end, rototilling produced a very fine tilth, but digging left large clods in a very rough condition. In the dry soil at the southern end the rototiller did not produce the same fine tilth, but many small clods were scattered throughout the area. Digging, on the other hand, did not leave the soil as rough as in the northern half. Soil samples at three depths were taken from each treatment immediately after cultivation and on two subsequent occasions for the determination of the moisture content. In view of the final results these figures are of no significance.

The house was left without further treatment until just before planting. On May 8 the whole house was watered, and three days later the soil was prepared in the routine manner for planting on May 12. Soil preparation consisted of forking over the rough areas to produce a finer tilth in the upper layers, care being taken to prevent any lateral movement of soil. At the time of planting there was no apparent difference in the strips in the house.

The seedlings used for the house were raised in a mixture consisting of leaf compost, Waite Institute soil—a red-brown earth—and sand. This mixture had been heated in a sterilatum for four hours a week before being used. The seedlings were pricked out into boxes of the same mixture, and at the time of planting were an even, healthy lot of young plants. Rows number 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 were planted with Early Dwarf Red, and rows 3, 5 and 7 with a taller variety. Rows 2, 4, 6 and 8 were utilized for all observations. The glasshouse was managed throughout in the normal manner with respect to irrigation, cultivation, and the application of fertilizers. A tally was kept of all removals and replacements of plants which showed signs of root disease up to the time of setting of the first truss of fruit.

At the end of the season (27/1/37) all plants in the experimental rows were dug up and examined for the presence or absence of the disease.

Committee held on November 3, 1941, together with the annual report of the Director of Lands for the year 1940/41 and copy of the minutes of the annual meeting of the Federal Council of the A.D.F.A. held on October 21, 1941, were laid on the table.

Financial business was also disposed of.

BLACK DOT ROOT ROT OF TOMATOES—(Continued).

Results.

There was no significant difference between the numbers of plants removed from the various treatments in the early stage of growth. Analysis of the data obtained at the final inspection showed that the percentage of diseased plants occurring in the dug areas was lower than in the rototilled areas, whilst moisture had had no effect, and the interaction of the two treatments was negligible.

Table 1.—Percentage of Diseased Plants.

Cultivation.	
Dug	69.7
Rototilled	83.5
Moisture.	
Moist end	74.9
Dry end	78.3
S.E. of mean \pm	2.10.

Experiments at the Waite Institute.

The roots and stem bases of a number of the diseased tomatoes present in the glasshouse in which the previously described experiment was conducted were collected and used as inoculum in an investigation of the survival of the fungus under varying conditions. The plant material was finely chopped by passing it through a food mincer and then allowed to air dry before being incorporated in soil as inoculum for the actual trial.

A quantity of the soil mixture previously described for use in seed boxes was treated in a sterilatum for four hours, after which it was spread out to dry. When air dried sufficiently the soil was divided into three lots. One-third (A) was left dry, a second portion (B) was moistened evenly to a friable consistency, whilst the remainder (C) was made very moist. Determination of the moisture content as a percentage of the dry weight of the soil gave the

following results for the three samples:—(A) 9.26 per cent, (B) 19.76 per cent., and (C) 31.14 per cent.

Thirty-two large glazed earthenware pots, brought to an even tare, were used to store the soil. Four were filled with dry soil (A)—C.D. series—and four with moist soil (C)—C.W. series—to serve as control pots.

One hundred and seventeen grams of the inoculum were thoroughly mixed with the remainder of the dry soil and a definite weight of it placed in each of eight earthenware pots—the I.D. series. The remainder of the very moist soil (C) was treated similarly—the I.W. series. Moist soil (B) was used to fill a further eight pots without the addition of inoculum. This series (L.I.) was used to add dry inoculum at the time of testing. All pots were filled on 24/4/36.

The soil was kept at its original moisture content by weekly weighing of the pots and adding sufficient water to bring them back to the original weights.

Tests of the effect of the various treatments on the ability of the fungus to produce disease on young tomato plants grown in the experimental soil were commenced the following June, August, October, and March.

The method of conducting these tests was as follows:—On each occasion two pots from each of the I.D., I.W., and L.I. series and one from each of the C.D. and C.W. series supplied the soil in which to grow young tomato plants previously raised in sterilized compost. The soil from a large pot was sufficient to fill eight 6 in. flower pots, in each of which one tomato plant was grown. The flower pots were filled directly from the earthenware one, except in the case of the L.I. series, when the

soil from the two pots was mixed thoroughly with 29 grams of dry inoculum, obtained from the original material stored in large flasks stoppered with cotton wool. This mixture was used to fill 16 flower pots. All flower pots were watered alike, no shortage of water occurring.

At intervals plants were examined for the presence of the fungus by macroscopic observation and planting diseased tissue on potato dextrose agar. The severity of the disease symptoms was also noted.

Results.

In all tests, the plants grown in inoculated soil developed the disease whilst the plants grown in the soil from the C.D. and C.W. pots remained healthy, thus demonstrating (a) that the fungus could retain its viability under the various moisture conditions to which it was subjected for at least 11 months, and (b) under suitable conditions it could cause disease in tomato plants after being external to the host for that period. Although crude inoculum in the form of plant remains was used, isolations gave a consistently high percentage of Colletotrichum atramentarium—this fungus in many instances occurring to the exclusion of all others.

There was, however, a noticeable difference in the tests regarding the period which elapsed between planting and the recovery of the fungus in culture, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Date of planting.	Date of recovery of fungus in culture.	Interval in days.
2/6/36	15/12/36	196
27/8/36	21/1/37	147
27/10/36	26/1/37	86
4/3/37	24/6/37	112

It should be mentioned that the intervals are not precise as

HIGH PLUM PRICES IN ENGLAND.

£31 to £60 per Ton.

The British Ministry of Food recently made an order controlling prices for Plums (including Damsons and Greengages). When sold to licensed manufacturers Plums are divided into several groups and the maximum prices for growers range from £31 to £60 per ton, plus additions for containers and freights.

regards the first possible isolation of Colletotrichum, but in the first test, for instance, attempts at isolation of the fungus were negative 126 days after planting. The intervals, however, are sufficiently widespread to suggest that the fungus does not become very active until the soil temperatures begin to rise. The disease was also more severe in the second and third plantings than in the other two.

The results of these experiments suggest that Black Dot Root Rot is probably more prevalent in tomatoes than has previously been suspected. The fungus, however, apparently does not materially affect glasshouse-grown plants until December or January, so that early sown plants may escape the worst stages of the disease. After removal of as much of the plant base as possible, rough digging of the soil brings about a reduction in the number of diseased plants in the succeeding crop.

The fungus has been shown to be capable of retaining its viability in the soil for almost a year, so that any effort to reduce the amount in the soil by rotation would appear to necessitate the exclusion of tomatoes from the soil for at least two years. Potatoes are also susceptible to the same fungus, so they should likewise be excluded from the rotation.

Summary.

Two experiments with Black Dot Root Rot of tomatoes are described. In one, under commercial glasshouse conditions, it was found that allowing the soil to remain in a roughly dug condition for 2½ months during the Summer reduced the percentage of diseased plants below that of plants grown in soil which had been rototilled and left for the same period. This effect was independent of whether the cultivation was carried out in moist or dry soil.

In the second experiment it was shown that the fungus could remain viable for at least 11 months in both moist and dry soil in the absence of host plants.

Acknowledgments.

I gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance given me throughout these investigations by Mr. A. Elliot, of Payneham, also the criticism and advice given by Mr. D. B. Adam, of the Waite Institute.

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Canned Fruits News and Notes

Goulburn Valley (Vic.) News and Notes

CROP PROSPECTS --- LABOR PROBLEMS

(By Our Correspondent.)

SEASONAL CONDITIONS
in Goulburn Valley orchards are ideal, and with plentiful supplies of irrigation water available the orchards are looking in the pink of condition, and work is proceeding satisfactorily, in spite of acute shortage of labor.

The early **Apricots** (of the Newcastle variety) and early **Mayflower Peaches** are just commencing to come in, and the first consignment to the metropolitan markets have brought high prices. The **Peach** crop generally is looking well, and it is expected that the crop will be a normal one.

The **W.B.C. Pear** crop is estimated to be about a 75 per cent. crop, and at the present time the Pears are receiving the third spraying of arsenate of lead. So far the crop is particularly clean.

Youth Labor Proposals.

The acute shortage of labor to harvest the coming crop is causing growers great anxiety.

A conference was recently held in Shepparton, when the probable requirements for the coming season were discussed. Proposals were adopted for the employment of University students and senior school boys.

The lads who regard the harvesting of the crop as an urgent national duty, and not in the light of a holiday, would be brought to the district, only in the event of ordinary seasonal labor not being available. They would be accommodated in camps, the first of which is in course of construction at Shepparton East. They would be in the charge of schoolmasters who are prepared to assist in an honorary capacity, and welfare of the youths would be carefully safeguarded.

It was stated at the conference that the youths would be in the nature of a secondary labor source, first preference being given to itinerant adults.

The boys would not be asked to leave their homes until they could be definitely placed.

Those present at the conference were Messrs. H. A. K. Hunt (Chairman), S. P. Cornish (Secretary), W. Young (President Northern Victorian Fruit Growers' Association), Cr. Riordan (Mayor of Shepparton), Mr. Lawrey (Orchard Inspector), Mr. Broomfield (manager local labor exchange), Mr. F. Down (University Appointments Board), Mr. H. Montgomery (Geelong Grammar School), Mr. A. Hillhouse (Melbourne Grammar School), and Mr. F. A. Bracey (Secretary of the Conference).

Anticipated Requirements.

Mr. Cornish expressed the labor requirements as follows:—

Apricot Season: From December 15 to December 30, 1,000 men above the permanent staff.

Pear Season: From January 15 for three weeks, 2,000 men above the permanent staff.

Peach Season: February to end of March, 2,500 men above the permanent staff.

Towards this need, Mr. Down suggested that manpower should be recruited through the University Appointments Board from the various colleges, public schools and State high schools for youths between 16 and 18 years.

From the discussion, two main points emerged and it was resolved: "That the Northern Victoria Fruit Growers' Association welcome the offer of youth labor to meet a serious shortage.

That the organisation wished to make a strong plea for the labor being available to the end of March owing to the special circumstances.

If, however, adjustment in the scholastic term could not be made, despite the national need, they would welcome the labor till February.

The only other source of labor apart from youths would be the use of prisoners of war.

Spraying.

The following information is issued by the Shepparton Fruit Growers' Advisory Committee.

Apples and Pears.

Codling moths are still emerging for the Spring brood and emergencies have arisen during the last few days. It is recommended that a further spraying be applied immediately.

Banding.

In normal seasons grubs would now be entering the bands, and attention should be given regularly every 10 to 14 days from now on until the fruit is harvested.

Thinning Out Peaches.

Growers are reminded of the necessity of thinning out all varieties of Peaches and Apricots which have set too heavily or in clumps.

SHEPPARTON CANNERY PROFIT £47,253.

Fruitgrowers Paid £189,139.

For the year ended October 31, 1941, the Shepparton Fruit Preserving Co. Ltd. shows a profit of £47,253, compared with £38,142 in the previous year. The profit is calculated after providing £45,119 for depreciation and taxation, against £30,836 in 1939-40.

The preference dividend of 6 per cent. and unchanged dividend of 15 per cent. on ordinary shares absorb £15,717; £30,000 is transferred to general reserve, leaving balance of £12,268 to be carried forward.

The directors report that the turnover for the year shows substantial increase over any previous year. The tonnage of shareholders' fruit processed was a record, payments amounting to £189,139.

SHEPPARTON CARNIVAL.

Queen of the Orchards Crowned.

Queen of the Orchards (Miss Doreen Dobson), whose enterprising committee collected £3,040, was crowned Queen of Greater Shepparton at the conclusion of the spectacular Carnival on October 29.

The Carnival, which extended for four months, raised £8,204—an average contribution of £1 per head of the district's population. This money goes to the Comforts Fund, Red Cross and patriotic charities.

SHEPPARTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Loss Turned to Profit.

The retiring directors (Messrs. A. McC. Duncan, N. W. Fairless, A. Opie, and W. L. Ross) were re-elected unopposed at the recent annual meeting of Shepparton Co-operative Society Ltd. A tribute was paid to the manager, Mr. W. Harrington, who since his appointment two years ago, has been responsible for turning a loss of £817 into a profit of £492.

The chairman (Mr. T. Davies) presided.

CANNED FRUITS.

Near Record Production.

When tabling the annual report of the Australian Canned Fruits Board recently, Mr. Scully (Commerce Minister) said that last season's production of 2,733,000 cases of canned Peaches, Pears and Apricots was exceeded in only one previous season.

Overseas Orders:

Although the embargo on importation of canned fruits into

the United Kingdom continues (stated Mr. Scully) purchases by the British Ministry of Food for shipments to destinations other than the United Kingdom, as well as sales to Canada, have been particularly good. The surplus in excess of Australian domestic requirements has either been sold or is held against delivery instructions.

KYABRAM CO-OPERATIVE CANNERY.

£16,830 Profit.

This year's profit of £16,830 has enabled the Kyabram Co-operative Fruit Preserving Co. Ltd., to write off a remaining accumulated deficit of £15,524.

According to the company's annual report, Australian sales have been maintained at a high level, and shipments to the United Kingdom have been most satisfactory.

New buildings are being erected to provide more warehouse and cool storage space for the coming season.

CANNED TOMATOES AND VEGETABLES.

Large Overseas Orders.

ORDERS RECEIVED by Australia from overseas for canned foodstuffs, to be delivered by Christmas, are for such large amounts that all industries involved will have to work 24 hours a day to meet them.

The foodstuffs are mainly for supply through India to the fighting services in the Middle East.

Canned items for delivery by Christmas include 2,240,000 tins of canned tomatoes, 1,120,000 tins of vegetables, 6,000 tons of jam, 330 tons of marmalade, also tinned meat, cheese, etc.

Increased Cultivation.

The problem of supply covers in a number of cases the actual growing of the foodstuffs, such as vegetables, and an intense campaign has been started by the Supply Department in all States to produce more fresh vegetables for canning.

Vegetable Extract.

An interesting sidelight in the big orders is the supply of vegetable extract, which is being used for the prevention of scurvy by the troops overseas in places where fresh vegetables are scarce.

This product is now being manufactured extensively in Australia. Its basis is brewer's yeast, and the production at present is governed by the amount of brewer's yeast available.

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The Canning of Tomatoes

FULLY RIPE SMOOTH FRUIT ESSENTIAL — PEELING — SCALDING AND PROCESSING.

Tomatoes for canning should be moderately large, smooth so that peeling can be easily accomplished, evenly ripened to the stems, of clear red color, and possessing a large proportion of solid flesh of good flavor. Soft, watery varieties and Tomatoes of irregular shape are unsuitable.

This information is from the Food Preservation Division of the C.S.I.R., and is quoted from Mr. W. V. Cruess, California, U.S.A. Continuing, their article states:—

In transporting Tomatoes to the cannery, care must be taken to avoid crushing, thus shallow boxes are essential. As picking boxes become contaminated with moulds, yeast and bacteria, the picking boxes should be thoroughly washed and steamed before return to the grower. Tomatoes deteriorate rapidly after delivery and should be canned as promptly as possible. It is best to wash the fruit before scalding.

Peeling.

After washing and sorting, the Tomatoes are scalded by passing through boiling water or through live steam $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 minute, depending on their condition. The scalding should be sufficient to loosen the skin, but no so long that the pulp and flesh are thoroughly heated. As the Tomatoes emerge from the scald they are sprayed with, or immersed in, cold water to check further cooking and to crack the skin.

The scalded Tomatoes are delivered to the peeling tables where they are peeled and cored by hand as promptly as possible.

The sound cores and peels are sent to the pulping machines for the manufacture of low-grade

puree which is used for addition to standard-pack Tomatoes or for other Tomato products.

There are two packs, the solid-pack and the standard-pack. Solid-pack Tomatoes are the whole, firm, evenly colored Tomatoes packed carefully by hand into cans without the addition of juice or puree. Some canners add to each can of the highest grade Tomatoes a level teaspoonful of an equal mixture of salt and sugar to improve the flavor.

Standard-pack Tomatoes consist of the small Tomatoes, those of imperfect color, soft Tomatoes and trimmed Tomatoes. Often puree from trimmings and cores is added to fill the spaces between the pieces and to cheapen the product. The standard Tomatoes are just as nutritious and wholesome as the solid pack and are cheaper.

The addition of water to Tomatoes is never necessary, and constitutes an adulteration.

The Tomatoes should be thoroughly exhausted at a moderate temperature because solid-pack Tomatoes heat very slowly. The length of the exhaust should be adjusted so that the centre of the can reaches at least 130 deg. F., if possible 150 deg. F. C. H. Campbell ("Canning, Preserving and Pickling," U.S.A., 1937) recommends a long low temperature exhaust using water of about 100 deg. F. For American standard cans No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 minutes is stated to be sufficient.

For Processing, the agitating continuous cooker operating at 212 deg. F. has largely superseded the retort and the open cooker formerly used. The length of time varies according to the consistency of the pack. Solid-pack Tomatoes

heat more slowly than the standard-pack and so require longer processing.

In this agitating continuous cooker the American standard can sized 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ remains at 212 deg. F. for 25 minutes.

Considerable spoilage may occur unless the centres of the contents of the cans attain 190 deg. F. or higher. Temperatures are taken regularly by plunging an armoured, sharp-pointed thermometer to the centres of several cans taken directly from the outlet of the cooker.

Tomatoes should be cooled completely and quickly after sterilising so as to avoid browning and loss of flavor.

Cleanliness of equipment is of the greatest importance in the canning of Tomatoes.

CANNING OF CARROTS.

The following procedure given by C. H. Campbell, of U.S.A., for the canning of Carrots, is quoted in recent advices from the Food Preservation Division of the C.S.I.R.

There are usually three sizes used in canning, small whole ones about 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter; split ones that are about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter; others cut into discs or diced.

When received at the packing plant, carrots should be thoroughly washed.

Lye-peeling is recommended in preference to the mechanical abrading type of potato peeler. Due to their shape, carrots are not so economically peeled by this last method.

Blanch for 10 minutes at 212 deg. F., fill into cans, and cover with hot 2 per cent. salt brine.

Exhaust a No. 3 can (American Standard) 3 minutes and process 25 minutes at 240 deg. F.

NON-PRODUCTIVE TREES SHOULD BE CULLED.

A weak tree produces weak fruit, and as production per tree drops, so does quality and size. Wise citrus growers watch their groves and cull out all unprofitable trees. It is estimated in California that a tree that will not produce four field boxes of good fruit will not pay for fertilizer, spraying, water and other working costs. Many trees are therefore non-profit making because of poor root stock and disease, and the sooner such are noted and replaced by pedigreed trees that will produce their quota the better off will the grower be.

Crowded conditions are reducing yields in the Los Angeles County, reports A. G. Salter, in "Citrograph." In this case he advises removing sick or unsatisfactory trees and not replanting. He argues that 10 to 20 per cent. of decrepit trees in old groves will reduce costs, give a better average return, and remove some of surplus poor grade from the market.

BOTTLING THE SURPLUS.

Fruit and Vegetable Demonstrations.

TO ENCOURAGE HOUSEWIVES to use Australia's surplus primary products, particularly fruit, potatoes and lamb, the Department of Agriculture, assisted by the Education Dept., arranged a series of demonstrations of fruit and vegetable preservation and cookery at the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, Melbourne, on November 25, 26 and 27. Assistance was rendered by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board in supplying the needed Apples and Pears for the demonstration.

In opening the demonstration, the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) said that here was a further opportunity for women to assist in the national effort by preserving our food-stuffs and thus preventing the surplus from being wasted.

He pointed out that with our export market now cut off there are twice as many Apples to be consumed in Australia: this obviously could not be accomplished at the harvesting period, nor was there sufficient cool storage available to store the surplus, but a considerable quantity of the fruit could be bottled. Even in cool storage Apples would not keep more than five or six months, whereas preserved they would last for two years.

The demonstrations included jelly making, fruit juices, fruit bottling, marmalades, salads, ways with potatoes, fruit and vegetable preservation, dishes from lamb, etc. It was shown that no expensive equipment was required.

At the demonstrations a very useful pamphlet was sold for 6d. giving full directions for preserving, bottling and pulping of fruits and vegetables. Copies of this can be obtained by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Burnley, Vic.

MURRAY VALLEY IRRIGATION.

A Huge Undertaking.

That the war effort was responsible for the slowing down of the extension of the Murray Valley irrigation scheme was stated in a letter from the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission to Mr. E. Brensing, secretary of the Murray Valley District Irrigation League.

The letter stated that the projected irrigation works were on a vast scale involving a total expenditure of £900,000, exclusive of the cost of the Yarrawonga Weir. The expenditure to date was £516,000, the works including the Yarrawonga, Murray Valley, and other large channels. The Commission desires to complete all works as soon as possible, with a view to bringing the whole area into full production, but extension was hampered by a shortage of labor because of the war effort.



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THE MARKET GROWER

Onion Growing

(H. H. Orchard, R.D.A., Horticultural Adviser.)

Preparation of the Ground — Seeds and Plantings — Fertilizers

THE GROWING OF ONIONS is an important industry.

South Australia produces approximately 4,300 tons of onions annually with an average yield of 7.6 tons per acre. Of this tonnage, the County of Adelaide supplies 90 per cent., the County of Hindmarsh 4 per cent., and the balance proceeds from 14 other counties. So writes Mr. H. H. Orchard, Horticultural Adviser in the S.A. Journal of Agriculture.

The following table shows production figures during recent years:—

Year.	Acres.	Total Yield. Tons.
State—		
1937-38	513	4,126
1938-39	542	3,892
1939-40	644	4,903
County Adelaide—		
1937-38	449	3,754
1938-39	464	3,483
1939-40	541	4,402
County Hindmarsh—		
1937-38	26	190
1938-39	32	188
1939-40	23	157

Over the same period, the annual exports, mainly to other States, were 799 tons, 1,868 tons, and 1,341 tons respectively, an average of 1,336 tons annually, while imports averaged 110 tons annually.

The onion is easily grown, and provided suitable land is used, and good cultural methods adopted, yields of 10 tons and over, are possible. There are in fact, recorded instances of over 20 tons to the acre being harvested.

The onion does not exhaust the soil as many vegetables do, and is singularly free from disease, and for these reasons, successive crops can be grown in the same land for a number of years.

It can be said that the onion is a reliable, and generally speaking, profitable crop to grow. For the three year period under review, the average ruling city prices were £7, £16/10/- and £9/15/-, or an average of a little over £11 per ton. Cost of production naturally varies, as much depends on the class of land selected. It is a mistake to attempt to grow onions on weedy land.

Great care needs to be exercised in the selection of the land if a profitable crop is to be grown. Heavy clayey soils, hill-sides, and stony land should be avoided. Fairly heavy loams are not necessary, although such soils produce a good keeping onion as a rule because of a strong skin and firm flesh, but

they are longer in maturing. Sandy soils usually produce a quick maturing and thinner skinned onion, but one which is generally of poorer keeping quality. The ideal is a good, fertile, moderately light loam, of good depth, provided it is well drained. In the absence of the latter feature, means of drainage must be provided before planting is proceeded with.

Land which has been under cultivation for several years is preferable to new land, the returns from which are likely to be poor. The site should be open and sunny without being exposed. Land containing decomposed vegetable matter, providing it is reasonably free from weeds, is very suitable; weedy land increases considerably the cost of production.

Preparation of the Land.

Early preparation of the land facilitates weed destruction and reduces subsequent labor. The suppression of weed growth is most important, for once get rid of weed seed from the land and little trouble will be experienced later in keeping it clean.

The initial ploughing should be deep, up to 10 in., although the depth will be dictated by the type of soil. Deep sandy soils, for instance, can be ploughed to a greater depth than the shallower heavier soils. Sometimes to attain their objective, growers resort to hand digging of the land, but in no instance should the stiff subsoil be brought to the surface. Doing so upsets the texture of the surface soil, generally reflected in lower yields, while the additional working necessitated by the practice increases cost of production.

The land must be thoroughly worked down to a firm fine tilth, and to obtain this the frequent use of disc harrows and roller is necessary; the harrows to break down lumps and the roller to firm the seed bed.

Seed.

ONION SEED quickly loses its germinating power, so that growers should not go beyond last seasons' crop for their requirements. Should seed be purchased, buy only the best grade, from a reliable source, and test the seed prior to sowing.

For testing purposes take 100 seeds, place them on a piece of blotting paper, or flannel cloth, in a shallow dish and keep moistened for five days, at a temperature of 68 deg. Fahr., i.e., approximately atmospheric conditions. At the end of this

period a count of the number of seeds which have germinated will give the percentage germination. The test is simple and will assist to decide the rate of seeding. Regulations under the "Agricultural Seeds Act, 1938," set the minimum germination percentage for onion seed at 50 per cent., but with good fresh seed at least 90 per cent. should germinate.

Many growers save their own seed. Typical bulbs, true to shape, size, and color are selected, carefully stored until the following season, and then planted out in rows 30 in. apart, with 15 in. between the bulbs, and with the bulbs just covered with soil.

Planting should be done in April-May for early maturing kinds, and June-July for the keeping varieties; where more than one variety is grown, seed plots should be well separated to prevent risk of hybridization. The frequent use of the cultivator between the rows and the hand hoe between the sets is necessary to keep down weeds, conserve soil moisture, and provide a fine surface tilth.

When the seed is ripe, prompt handling is necessary to prevent loss should the seed receptacles open. The heads should be removed when they turn yellow and the seeds show black; several inches of stem should be left attached and the heads placed in stout paper bags and hung up in a well-ventilated shed to dry. Drying is assisted by frequent turning. When dry the seed should be threshed out, cleaned by winnowing, and stored until required, in a dry, well-ventilated place. An average crop should yield at the rate of 300 lb. of seed per acre.

Fertilizers.

Land intended for onions should be well manured and the manure deeply incorporated in the soil. Well rotted animal manure is excellent, and where it is readily available, a heavy top dressing should be applied in the Autumn and ploughed in.

The amount and kind of artificial fertilizer to be applied must vary considerably, and in this respect growers must be guided largely by their own experience in their particular district, by soil type, and the previous history of the field to be planted. Bonedust, bone super, and super are all freely used.

Probably 3 cwt.-5 cwt. per acre of either bonedust or bone super, ploughed in just prior to planting would be adequate dressing, although when the young plants are not thriving, 1 cwt. sulphate of ammonia, spread between the rows and lightly hoed in, is helpful.

Planting.

In most parts of the State the practice is to raise seedlings in specially prepared beds and transplant them into the field when approximately 6 in. to 8 in. high. The alternative method is to sow the seed direct into the field and thin out the seedlings when sufficiently large. Advo-

cates of the former method claim that transplanting is quicker than thinning and weeding in the field. In the Mount Lofty Ranges, however, it is sometimes difficult to raise the seedlings during the cold Winter months in readiness for planting out in late July or early August.

Seed Beds.

A warm sunny spot should be selected for the seed bed. A good dressing of well rotted animal manure should be incorporated early in March, and the bed kept cultivated to destroy young weed growth and to bring soil to a fine tilth in early April, when the seed should be sown. It is preferable to have several seed plantings at intervals of 6-7 days so that suitable plants are always available for transplanting. With only one seeding, plants for later transplantings are apt to be too forward. Seed is sown 1 in. deep in drills 8 in. apart, and firmed in; to facilitate hoeing and weeding, seed beds should not exceed six rows in width. A home-made marker of seed bed requirements is helpful in this respect. Backward seedlings may be pushed along with judicious applications of liquid manure or sulphate of ammonia. Weeds must be suppressed.

The seedlings are ready for transplanting when from 6 in. to 8 in. high and they are lifted by using a spade under the row and prizing the soil up so that the seedlings are removed without damage. The roots are trimmed back to about 1 in. in length and the tops cut down to within 3 in. or 4 in. of the crown of the plant.

The amount of seed required to supply sufficient seedlings to plant an acre depends on the germinating power, but not less than 1 lb. would be needed by this method; approximately 160,000 seedlings are required per acre.

Some Hills growers adopt the practice of purchasing their seedlings from, or raising them in, an earlier district, such as the Adelaide Plains.

(To be continued.)

PUBLICATION— "AUSTRALIA."

The new official handbook, "Australia," has been received. This book is published by The Australian National Publicity Association to answer the ever-increasing flow of enquiries from overseas concerning this country, its resources and its people. Australians, too, will find much interesting reading and useful data in this story of the progress and development of the world's youngest civilisation in the world's oldest continent.

Copies of the handbook can be obtained, at a cost of 2/6 each, from the Association's offices at Flinders-street Railway Buildings, Melbourne, and 33 Macquarie Place, Sydney.

Fertilizers for Orchards & Vineyards

(By A. G. Strickland, M.Sc., Chief Horticulturist, Dept. of Agric., South Aust.)

IN ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS, the fertilizers most usually required are those containing phosphoric acid (such as super) and nitrogen (such as sulphate of ammonia). So far, there has been very little evidence of response in orchards or vineyards to fertilizers containing potash, although it has been customary to use some potash in mixtures such as 2:2:1 or 4:4:1 with a view to balanced manuring and for long-range maintenance of soil fertility.

Until recently, mixtures such as the above-mentioned—2:2:1 and 4:4:1—have been rather more easy to purchase under rationing than straight sulphate of ammonia. However, as both super and sulphate of ammonia will be rationed further, and as potash is exceedingly scarce, these mixtures which contain all three plant foods, will no doubt be rationed also.

Concerning the two chief "straight" fertilizers, sulphate of ammonia and super, it is necessary to first distinguish their two uses in the orchard or vineyard, namely, application in Autumn to encourage growth of green crops or miscellaneous weed growth, and application in Spring for direct benefit of trees or vines. From the long-

range viewpoint, the first-mentioned use is the most important; organic matter must be maintained, and comparatively light broadcast dressings in Autumn—2 cwt. per acre of super and $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. to 1 cwt. per acre of sulphate of ammonia—will encourage the growth of green crops or weeds for ploughing under in Spring.

If supplies of fertilizer are short, it is desirable to meet first the needs of the Winter ground growth.

In addition to broadcast Autumn dressings, it is customary in many orchards and vineyards to apply sulphate of ammonia, super, both, or mixtures containing phosphoric acid, nitrogen and sometimes potash, in early Spring. These dressings are applied in rings or furrows adjacent to the trees or vines for direct and rapid utilization by the latter. In some instances these Spring dressings are essential for maximum cropping; in others they may be reduced or even abandoned for several seasons in this regard depends a good deal upon the nature of the trees or vines, the type of soil, previous fertilizer history, etc., and must be decided on the facts for each property.

Where Spring dressings of fertilizer are definitely required, nitrogen will, in practically all cases, be the most important plant food.

Normally, sulphate of ammonia is the most important quick-acting fertilizer used in this connection, and it appears inevitable that this fertilizer will be rationed even more severely than is the case at present; the extent of the probable rationing is not known, but it is presumed that regular purchasers will be able to obtain a quota of their normal supplies. Any additional nitrogen requirements will have to be supplied in other ways; by growing leguminous green crops (which will draw nitrogen from the air), by utilizing stable manure and other organic manures to the extent obtainable, and by applying other nitrogen-carrying fertilizers such as dried blood, castor meal and nitrate of soda. However, rationing of sulphate of ammonia supplies must also involve a rationing of the last-mentioned fertilizers, and the grower having obtained all quantities of such fertilizers available to him, will necessarily have to resort to leguminous green crops, stable manure, and such other "unrationed" sources for any additional nitrogen requirements.—S.A. Jour. Agric.

Citrus Pruning Demonstration

An interesting pruning demonstration by Mr. R. J. Benton (special citrus instructor) was recently arranged by the Griffith Producers' Co-op. Co. at the farm of Mr. V. Kelly.

In outlining the general principles of pruning Lemon trees, Mr. Benton said these differed slightly from the system generally applied to the treatment of Orange trees. The general condition of individual trees must be taken into consideration, and where a tree was obviously sick the treatment sometimes had to be drastic. Generally, Mr. Benton did not believe in too severe pruning, preferring to leave a larger surface of leaf growth to allow of more transpiration from the roots of the tree.

Excessive Watering.

In many cases, said Mr. Benton, the lower root system of citrus trees had been entirely destroyed by too much watering, the trees now having to depend on surface roots.

Soil Auger.

As the soil conditions often varied considerably on the same orchard, Mr. Benton advocated the constant use of a soil auger on all parts of the orchard.

Where decline of trees is due to faulty moisture conditions, drastic pruning should be delayed until there is evidence of a change in soil conditions.

Annual Demonstration.

It was decided that the demonstration should be arranged as an annual fixture, so that the pruned trees could be watched and results noted.

NAVY BEAN CULTURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE Waite Agricultural Research Institute has conducted a number of experiments in the cultivation of beans, and the following information has been extracted from a recent report by Prof. J. A. Prescott, Director of the Institute.

"Navy" Beans.

This title was given in U.S.A. and includes white seeded forms of lima bean and kidney, the former being more suitable to tropical conditions and the latter needing much the same climatic conditions and cultural treatment as for French beans.

Kidney Beans.
At Berri trials were conducted with three varieties of so-called "Navy" beans—Ohtenashi from Japan, Canadian from Canada, and an unnamed variety from the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

Sown in mid-October at the Waite Institute; the Ohtenashi and Canadian were mature by the end of January and produced excellent clean seed. The Victorian sown at the same time was not mature till March and gave a low yield of small, stained seed.

It is reported that the Commonwealth Dept. of Supply and Development requires 100,000 bushels at a price of £1 per 60 lb. Seed is available for 3,000 acres, of which Victoria has contracted to grow 1,500 acres.

Lima Beans.

The lima bean is a bean of high quality, which can be shelled in the young stage similar to peas, or which can be grown to maturity as a Navy or butter bean. Seeds set sparsely, however, around Adelaide.

Small Seeded Varieties.

The small seeded varieties do well in Adelaide, but the larger seeded types probably require a humid atmosphere for good seed setting. The former variety is not as suitable for commercial production as the Navy bean.

Soja Bean.

The S.A. Winter is too cool for the Soja bean, and it may well prove to be an early Summer crop requiring irrigation.

PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER SHORTAGE.

Rationing in N.Z.

All chemical fertilizers containing phosphate are to be rationed in N.Z. as from July 1, owing to shortage of overseas supplies.

Essential crops will be a first charge on the available phosphate, and the balance will be equitably distributed among farmers for top-dressing purposes.

There will be no restriction on the supplying of other fertilizers such as blood and bone dust, potash, and inorganic nitrogenous fertilizers.

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(Continued from page 4.)

than last year. Varieties mostly grown are Jonathan, Yates, Granny Smith, Rokewood, Statesman, Delicious. Crops are variable, but it appears that the percentages of a normal crop may be as follow:—Jon., 70 per cent.; Yates, 45 per cent.; Rokewood, 40 per cent.; G.S., 80 per cent.; Statesman, 60 per cent.; Del., 70 per cent.

Some Black Spot is in evidence, and growers are kept busy spraying.

VICTORIA.

School Children's Fruit Packing Competition.

Forty-five children from the surrounding district schools took part in the annual School Children's Fruit Packing Competition held at the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Company's cool store at Blackburn, on October 28. The competitors were all members of the school-children's fruit-packing classes conducted by Mr. T. W. Pearce, Assistant Fruit Packing Instructor of the Department of Agriculture. The Doncaster, East Doncaster, Wantirna, Blackburn, Tally Ho, and East Burwood schools were represented.

The children had to wrap and pack 2½ in. Yates Apples in the standard case. Monetary prizes, donated by the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Company were awarded to all competitors, and were presented by Mr. J. J. Tully, chairman of directors.

Lily Blundy (East Burwood) gained 1st prize, Fred Handasyde (Wantirna) 2nd, and Gladys Reader (Blackburn) was 3rd. Mr. J. L. Provan, Senior Horticultural Instructor, congratulated the children on the very fine effort they had made and stressed the importance of this kind of work in their district at a time like the present, when adult labor was so scarce. He also thanked Mr. Tully and Mr. Moore, of the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. for the interest and assistance given to the Department in conducting these classes and in the present competition.

Mr. W. H. Harris, Assistant Fruit Packing Instructor, who judged the packing, congratulated the children and explained to them where some of the points had been lost.

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUIT AND WINE PRODUCTION.

The Victorian Government Statist has released the following figures for the 1940-41 season (the 1939-40 figures are shown in brackets):—Growers engaged in dried fruit and wine production totalled 2,398 (2,405); Grapes gathered, 4,066,343 cwt. (4,869,991 cwt.); wine made, 1,208,452 gals. (1,126,350 gals.); Lexias, 115,137 cwt. (108,403); Sultanas, 711,700 cwt. (838,149); Currants, 132,580 cwt. (212,841).

N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board

THE half-yearly meeting of the above Board was held in Sydney on November 20. At the request of the Chairman, members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deaths of the Secretary (Mr. G. A. Try) and Mr. A. H. Dickson, Chairman of the W.A. Dried Fruits Board.

An extensive and varied agenda was placed before the meeting and included the following:—

Quotas and Contribution: Statements showing the compliance by packers with quotas during the 1941 season and payment of contribution were submitted to the Board, and the position noted as very satisfactory in each case.

Special Inspections: It was reported that no legal proceedings in respect to illegal trade in dried fruit had been necessary during the period. Appreciation was expressed of the co-operation of the Victorian and South Australian Dried Fruits Boards which enabled the N.S.W. Board to carry out inspections in their own State and Queensland. The co-operation of the Queensland Department of Agriculture had facilitated the Inspectors' enquiries in that State.

Publicity: The staff of the Board had co-operated wherever possible with the Dried Fruits Publicity Committee and that Committee had expressed appreciation of the members' efforts.

Registration and Inspection of Dehydrators: Renewal of registration of 26 dehydrators for the twelve months ending December 31, 1942, was approved by the Board. Additional applications, when received, will be dealt with by correspondence. It was noted that 40 dehydrators are registered with the Board for the present year. These plants are situated in districts as under:—Young 29, Griffith 8, Leeton 2, Batlow 1.

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure that growers maintained dehydrators and plants on drying grounds in a clean and hygienic condition.

Further Plantings of Dried Fruits: The Board had given this matter consideration during the year and representations had been made to the N.S.W. Government asking them to indicate their policy in this matter on the lines of that indicated by the Governments of Victoria and South Australia.

Prune Juice: Six samples of Prune juice had been made available by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for experimental purposes. Three of the samples were prepared by the disintegration method and three by the battery diffusion method. Details of samples supplied are:—(1) Plain Prune Juice

(D'Agens), (2) Plain plus 3 per cent. Lemon juice (D'Agens), (3) Plain plus 3 per cent. Lemon juice and 8 per cent. Passion-fruit juice (D'Agens).

Mr. L. J. Lynch, Canning Research Officer at the Homebush Laboratory, had reported that samples submitted were not considered entirely satisfactory, and that experiments would be continued. The Board considered that the quality of Prune juice showed an improvement, and expressed appreciation of the interest being taken by the Council in this matter.

Additional Varieties of Dried Vine and Tree Fruits: The Board considered representations made for the institution of control of dried Plums and dried Ohanez Grapes. It was noted that these matters will again receive the attention of the Consultative Committee of the Dried Fruits Boards in the near future. In the circumstances, final decision was deferred. In regard to varieties of dried vine fruits not at present specified in the dried fruits legislation, it was decided that each variety should be dealt with as the necessity for control arose.

Moisture Content of Dried Tree Fruits: In view of American experience of the adverse effect of excessive moisture content on sales of dried tree fruits, with particular reference to Prunes, this matter has received the close attention of the Board during recent years. It was noted that during the present season the position has been quite satisfactory. Results of experiments conducted in relation to determining the moisture content of dried fruits were closely examined by the Board. It was decided to take no action for the present in regard to legal specification of maximum moisture content in dried tree fruits pending further investigations.

Prune Bread: It was reported that a large firm of retail shops had carried out tests in the manufacture of Prune bread from a commercial angle. A quantity of this bread had been offered for sale in the company's shops. The public had shown appreciation of the bread, and the company now proposed to manufacture and sell the product as a regular line. The Board decided that permission be granted for the packing and release next season of dried Prunes not of grade standard to be used in the manufacture of Prune bread.

Before the close of proceedings, members took the opportunity of congratulating their colleague, Lieutenant - Colonel Steele, M.L.C., on his promotion in rank in the Military Forces.

The world is always as young and as happy or as old and unhappy as we are.

TASMANIAN COOL STORAGE.

£10,000 for Increased Accommodation.

INCREASED COOL STORAGE in Tasmania is expected to follow the passing of a bill in the State House of Assembly which authorises the borrowing of £10,000 for constructing and extending cool storage facilities. It was stated by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. D'Alton), that he had in mind increasing the accommodation at Somerset, Stanley and Triabunna. Storage in these centres would be primarily for meat, fish and dairy produce, but in view of the shortage of storage for Apples it is hoped that the Minister will consider this requirement also.

TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.

Frost Insurance Desired.

Frost as well as hail damage should be covered in any fruit insurance scheme, and the scheme should apply to each State individually, both as regards premiums and distribution. This was the opinion contained in a resolution passed on the motion of Mr. D. E. Ryan at a recent meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board.

It was stated that Tasmania is far more subject to frost damage than any other State, but no provision has been made for this in the Parliamentary Committee's recommendations, which covered only hail insurance.

Market for 3,500,000 Cases.

Between 3,250,000 and 3,500,000 cases of fruit will be required from Tasmania next season, apart from processing fruit. This estimate was given to the meeting by Mr. F. Taylor (State Superintendent of the Apple and Pear Board), who said the increase would be due to the lighter crops in N.S.W. and Victoria. He recommended growers to obtain double the quantity of case timber used last year.

Growers Receive £750,000.

Over £750,000 had been paid in advances to Tasmanian fruit-growers under the 1941 acquisition scheme, Mr. Taylor stated.

Prompt Payments Appreciated.

Mr. J. R. Abel (the Chairman) said it was gratifying that the last advance to over 2,500 growers had been paid so expeditiously. It was agreed to write to the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Frost) thanking him and the Federal Government for the prompt way in which the 1941 acquisition payments had been finalised.

(Further Tasmanian Notes on page 28.)

Supplementary Enterprises for Orchardists

FAT LAMBS — DAIRYING — PIG RAISING —
VEGETABLE CULTURE.

ORCHARDISTS, perhaps more than any primary producers, are faced by uncertain prospects while the war continues. Therefore, it will be to the fruitgrower's advantage to promote supplementary undertakings.

Sidelines most suitable for most orcharding districts are fat lamb raising, pigs, dairying, crops such as potatoes and grey peas, and vegetable growing.

In many cases the orchardist will be able to reduce expenses by growing his own vegetables, running a cow and keeping one or two dozen fowls to meet household demands. If pigs are not kept on a commercial scale, one or two suckers, fed on scraps from the homestead, waste fruit and a little grain, will provide a good supply of bacon at little cost.

Fat Lamb Raising.

Thorough cultivation is one of the most important factors in laying down pastures, and many failures are due to badly prepared seed-beds. In districts where clovers have not given good results, half a ton of ground carbonate of lime per acre harrowed into the ground about six weeks before sowing will often result in a good stand being obtained.

On small holdings, temporary pastures have much to recom-

mend them and are generally a better proposition than permanent swards. A good general temporary pasture mixture is 1 bushel Certified Italian Ryegrass and 6 lbs. Red Clover per acre sown with a cover crop of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels Algerian Oats and 1 bag super. per acre.

Another important factor is the growing of Summer and Winter forage crops to supplement the pastures at the seasons of diminished growth. See that an acre or two of rape is ready towards the end of December so that the lambs can be topped off if the season turns out dry. A small paddock of turnips or swedes for Winter feeding is very valuable in keeping the ewes in good condition and is a safeguard against any food shortage through the Winter.

On orchard properties with small areas available for pastures and fodder crops, it will pay to subdivide into smaller paddocks than are generally used, thus providing for a wider rotational feeding system.

An adequate and continuous supply of clean fresh water is very important.

Dairying.

This is also a useful sideline for orchardists. The growing of fodder crops is very important to successful dairying as

nutritious feed in adequate quantity must be available for the cows all the year round.

The daily morning and evening milkings may, perhaps, in some cases prove an undue hindrance to the orchard work during busy periods. Should sufficient labor be available, however, either outside or within the family circle, good returns may be obtained from dairying and also from pigs, which should normally be kept in conjunction with cows.

Pigs.

For most orchardists the Tamworth-Berkshire cross would prove satisfactory. Type is more important than breed. It is absolutely essential that a pure-bred hog should be used. There is not the same necessity for the sows to be pure-bred, and often crossbred sows make better mothers. In selecting a sow one should make sure that she comes from a strain noted for large litters, good "doers," and early maturity. She should be quiet and docile, and have at least twelve well-developed and evenly-spaced teats.

Temporary or permanent pastures are essential. They will supply the bulk of the food throughout the year, but forage crops will be required to supplement them. Waste Apples will give a lot of feed, and pigs fed on boiled Apples, grey peas and meatmeal, fatten rapidly. The purchase of concentrates and grain is warranted for the final topping-up of baconers and for supplementing forage crops, but the bulk of the food must be grown on the property.

Under the open-air system of pig raising, the pigs are run on pastures, in the orchard, and on forage crops until it is time to top them up. Some growers obtain good results by fattening in small paddocks. A central fattening pen, however, is desirable.

A good layout is to have a central lane and paddocks of approximately 1 acre. These can be subdivided temporarily for feeding off pastures and forage crops.

By adopting a rotation of temporary pastures and forage crops and as the result of the grazing of the pigs, even poor soils can be greatly improved. Pig manure adds to the humus content of the soil, thus improving its fertility and water holding capacity.

Adequate housing is important. The animals must be kept clean, warm, dry, and protected from draughts.

A point often overlooked by pig breeders is the supply of fresh, clean water for their stock. Brood sows drink large quantities and pigs of all ages should have access to it at all times.

Some orchardists adopt the practice of having their sows farrow in January and July. The January litters are useful in cleaning up waste Apples in the orchard and can be brought to bacon weights at very little cost. Pastures and forage crops enable the July litters to return good profits.

Another advantage of running pigs in the orchard is that weeds are converted into valuable manure, which is cheaper and better than that bought in bags.

Cash Crops.

Two of the main crops which would be most suitable to grow are potatoes and grey peas. If prices should be bad, both of these crops can be marketed as pig flesh, for which there is every indication of reasonable prices for many years.

Vegetable Growing.

This has several marked advantages over other sidelines. Firstly, large areas of land are not required, and secondly, there is at present a very good market for vegetable produce. — P. P. Tyson, in Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture.

"FOOD" STAMPS IN U.S.A.

In U.S.A., relief to distressed families—and there are many of them—is issued in the form of "food stamps." These are exchangeable for commodities purchased by the Surplus Food Administration. Substantial quantities of fruit and vegetables are disposed of in this way.

The crystal gazer peered closer into her mystic glass. "I see," she whispered, "I see a buried treasure."

Her visitor moved impatiently. "I know," he said, "I know all about him. He's my wife's first husband."



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Market Notes and Prices

FORESTALLING IN SYDNEY MARKETS.

"Practice to End," says Premier

Market By-laws are Being Drafted.

IN RESPONSE to many representations regarding trading practices in the Sydney Markets, the Premier, Mr. McKell, said he was determined to stop forestalling. This was an unscrupulous practice which increased the price of fruit and vegetables to the consumer. The Sydney City Council, would shortly amend its by-laws to prevent price manipulation.

The new regulations, the Premier stated, would prohibit sales on any day before 7 a.m., or the declared opening hour, with a proviso permitting the fulfilment of a contract made not later than the preceding day.

The regulations would also prohibit any person from offering for sale goods other than those grown by him or his employer, except in cases where a grower had made a declaration to the Superintendent of Markets that he was bringing to the market the goods of another grower for sale under an agreement.

Every grower-seller would be compelled to make a statutory declaration setting out the situation of the land on which his goods were grown and his right to grow them there, Mr. McKell said. He would also be compelled to display prominently on his stand a notice bearing his name and address.

The Government would co-operate with the City Council to ensure the strict enforcement of the regulations.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney: The following notes and prices are taken from the Weekly Marketing Notes of the N.S.W. State Marketing Bureau, for week ending November 26:—

Supplies of Cherries were forward from the Orange, Young and Lakesland districts. Daily consignments generally totalled about five to six thousand boxes, although, on the closing market, 10,000 boxes were received. Demand mostly was satisfactory, and values on Friday, November 21, were at fairly high levels. Subsequently, rates weakened, and at closing, the heavy supplies available, together with the slow mid-week inquiry, resulted in a general easing in prices.

Increasing quantities of Peaches were received. Choice lines sold well, but medium to lower grade packs did not clear so well. Opening rates were not maintained, and showed a decline of about 3/- per case.

Small Apricots proved difficult to sell, but choice fruit cleared promptly at up to 12/- half-case.

So far as the Apple market was concerned, buyers had only limited stocks to select from. Democrats constituted the bulk of supplies, and many showed breakdown. A few Yates were available. Any G. Smiths forward sold quickly at high rates, up to 25/- bushel, and, in some instances more, being obtained.

The only Pears on offer comprised Vic. Winter Nelis, which sold at from 14/- to 17/- bushel.

Demand for Lemons improved and, as only light supplies were available, prices advanced sharply.

Choice Valencia Oranges continued to sell well on most days, selected counts selling to 9/-, with specials to 10/- bushel. Plain grades were fairly plentiful and, at times, were in limited request.

Inquiry for Bananas was steady and prices generally showed little change. Some difficulty was experienced in disposing of small fruit and lots showing "dry end."

There was a considerable increase in Monday's (November 24) consignment of Pineapples, over 4,000 cases arriving. Despite the heavier supply, values were steady, southern fruit selling from 7/- to 10/-, with occasional specials to 11/- case.

Passionfruit supplies were mainly from Queensland, and prices were lower.

Current prices are:—Apples: G. Smith (N.S.W.), 22/- to 25/- (few higher); Yates, 12/- to 16/-; Demo. (Interstate), 12/- to 14/- per case.

Pears: W. Nelis (Interstate), 14/- to 17/- case.

Bananas: Nines and Eights, 15/- to 18/-; Sevens, 12/- to 15/-; Sixes, 8/- to 11/- Pineapples: Southern Q'land., 7/- to

10/- Papaws: 6/- to 12/- trop. case.

Oranges: Val., Coastal, 3/- to 9/- (few specials higher); Irrig. Area, 8/- to 11/-. Lemons: Coastal, 3/- to 11/-. Grapefruit: Coastal, 6/- to 12/-; Inland standard, 8/- to 10/-; specials, to 13/-; plain grades lower, per case.

Passionfruit: Q'land., choice, 11/- to 14/-; other, 7/- to 10/-. Peaches: 3/- to 9/- (specials higher). Apricots: 3/- to 10/-; specials, to 11/-. Plums: 3/- to 7/-; specials higher, per half-case.

Cherries (from Orange): 3/- to 5/-, specials dearer; (from Young), 3/- to 7/- quarter case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (2/12/41): Apples, eating, 8/- to 16/- case; cooking, 10/- to 18/-, few G. Smith higher. Apricots, 10/- to 16/-, few special higher. Red Currants, 7/- to 8/- doz. punnets. Oranges, Navel, 10/- to 18/-, few special higher; Commons, 10/- to 16/-. Lemons, 4/- to 6/-, few specially selected higher. Grapefruit, 10/- to 16/-, few special higher. Loquats, 8/- to 12/-. Gooseberries, green, 2/6 to 3/6 doz. lb. Strawberries, 8/- to 12/- doz. punnets, few special higher. Loganberries, 7/- to 9/- doz. punnets. Peaches, 8/- to 12/- half-case, odd special higher. Pears, dessert, 10/- to 16/-. Papaws, 12/- to 16/- double case, few higher. Plums, Jap., 8/- to 10/- half-case. Bananas, Qld. (green), 6's 9/- to 12/-, 7's 12/- to 14/-, 8's and 9's 15/- to 17/- double case, few higher. Pineapples, 8/- to

12/- double case, few higher. Passionfruit, 10/- to 20/- half-case, few higher.

QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET, MELBOURNE.

Altered Trading Hours—Xmas, New Year Holidays.

The Wholesale Markets (Growers and Agents) will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but will open earlier (5 a.m. in lieu of 7 a.m.) on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The Retail Market will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, but will be open until 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve in lieu of Boxing Day, and until 12 noon on New Year's Eve.

Normal trading hours will operate on all other days.

FRUIT PRICES IN LONDON.

Wholesale prices for fruit quoted in Covent Garden, London, on 13/8/41, were:—Apples: Beauty of Bath, 49/- per cwt.; Miller's Seedling, 49/- to 63/-; Early Victoria, 49/-; Grenadier, 49/-. Cherries, 1/3 to 3/- per lb.; Red Currants, 9d. to 1/-; Black Currants, 11½d.; Black Hamburgh Grapes, 8/- to 10/- per lb.; Muscat of Alexandria, 10/- to 12/-; Canon Hall, 15/-; Loganberries, 7d. per lb.; Raspberries, 6½ per lb.; Plums, 1/4 to 1/6 per lb.; Melons, 10/- to 15/- each; Peaches, 6/- to 30/- per dozen; Nectarines, 18/- to 30/-; Figs, 10/- to 15/-; green Gooseberries, 4d. per lb.; South African Oranges, 22/9 to 27/6 per box.

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POULTRY NOTES

HATCHING TURKEY EGGS.

Management of a hen sitting on Turkey eggs is exactly the same as when she is sitting on hens' eggs except that for the

last week, that is, from about the twentieth day (Turkey eggs taking 28 days to hatch), a little water should be poured into the corners of the nest so as to damp the foundation of the nest,

which is best made of earth or sand.

If, however, the hen is sitting direct on the ground no extra moisture need be added.

If you have no rats or other vermin, sitting the hens direct on the earth is a very good system. A saucer-shaped hole

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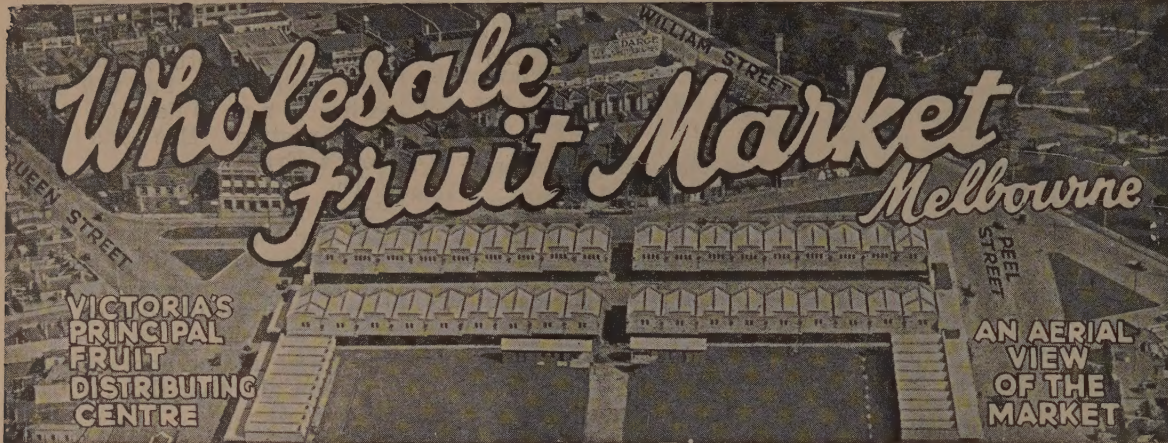
War With Japan.

In the course of printing this issue, the news is to hand of the Japanese attack on the United States of America.

This was followed by Britain's declaration of war on Japan.

New responsibilities now devolve on Australians and New Zealanders in this vast extension of the war.

The courage and resources of the Pacific peoples will be fully taxed in this new development, but it is certain that the people will bravely face the world arch-aggressors and would-be destroyers of liberty.



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Reference—E.S. and A. Bank, Elizabeth St. Branch, Melbourne. Phone: F 5035.

should be made in the ground about 3 in. deep, a little straw or hay placed in this hole to make a nest, and a bottomless hen coop placed over it.

This is all right where only a small number of birds are needed. Where large numbers of eggs are to be hatched under hens a bottomless wooden house is more convenient, as a number of hens can be set in one house.

Make several holes in the ground around the sides of the house about 1 ft. apart, and to keep the hen on her nest place a box or basket over her while she is sitting.

DETECTING VALUABLE CHICKS.

The chick with the best-fleshed breastbone at a month old and right through the growing period will turn out to be the best layer. Such a chick is obviously able to make the fullest use of the feed it eats, and as an adult will be able to do the same thing, with a consequent heavy egg yield. The flesh should be firm and hard, and the bone not sharply protruding.

HOME NOTES

TO MAKE FRENCH POLISH.

Housewives wishing to make a French polish to apply to furniture can do so by a mixture of eight ounces of shellac and one pint of spirits. This should be repeatedly applied to the surface that is to be polished, using lots of "elbow grease" and very soft old linen cloth. Allow plenty of time between each application.

The standards of a home are largely set by the mother. An attractive tablecloth, a well set table and a nicely served meal set standards in one realm; punctuality and reliability in another; patience and good temper and the daily upward look in another; and all are catching.

Dried Fruit News and Notes

The Australian Dried Fruits Association

ANNUAL REPORT REVEALS LOWER VINE FRUIT PRODUCTION IN 1941 THAN LAST YEAR.

QUALITY GENERALLY HIGH.

BIG QUANTITIES FOR ARMY NEEDS.

The 1941 crop of Australian dried vine fruits is estimated to yield 79,696 tons, compared with 95,562 tons, in 1940. This is revealed in the annual report of the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Sumner) as presented to the A.D.F.A. Federal Council recently. Early January rains in the Eastern States were responsible for a considerable decrease in Currants. Although the Sultanana crop was not as large as in 1940, a big percentage of the pack consisted of the higher grades, brought about mainly by the favorable drying weather experienced during the harvesting period.

The estimated yield of vine fruits in the Commonwealth for season 1941, according to latest official advices, is:—

	Currants. Tons.	Sultanas. Tons.	Lexias. Tons.	Total. Tons.
Victoria	6,574	34,487	5,537	46,598
S. Australia	6,672	10,933	4,498	22,103
N.S.W.	1,122	6,401	548	8,071
W. Australia	2,457	301	166	2,924
	16,825	52,122	10,749	79,696

The Association agents report an estimated pack of — Currants, 15,685 tons; Sultanas, 50,160 tons; Lexias, 10,112 tons. Total, 75,957 tons.

On the foregoing figures, the percentage of the vine fruits handled by the Association is—Currants, 93.2 per cent.; Sultanas, 96.2 per cent.; Lexias, 94.1 per cent.; or 95.3 per cent. of the total crop, as compared to 95.0 per cent. in 1940 season.

Tree Fruits: The estimated Australian pack of dried tree fruits for season 1941 is 4,796 tons, compared with 4,902 tons in 1940. Apricots, Peaches and Nectarines show an increased tonnage over 1940, but Prunes and Pears are considerably less. The Defence requirements amounting to:—Apricots 35 per cent.; Prunes, 50 per cent.; Peaches, 75 per cent.; Pears, 85 per cent., took a large proportion of the dried tree fruit pack, consequently it was impossible to cater for the full needs of the Commonwealth market.

The following table gives the estimated pack of the various varieties for season 1941:—

	Total Pack.	A.D.F.A. Tons.
Prunes	2,098	1,505
Apricots	1,801	1,337
Peaches	542	432
Nectarines	53	36
Pears	302	239
	4,796	3,549

Currants: The total Australian pack this year is estimated at 16,825 tons, compared with 24,791 tons in 1940. With the exception of Western Australia, rains in the early part of January considerably reduced the yield and also affected the quality.

Sultanas: The Australian production this year is estimated at 52,122 tons, which is 9,913 tons below the yield in 1940. The weather during the harvesting period was satisfactory, resulting in a large proportion of the higher grades being produced.

Lexias: This year's Australian production is estimated at 10,749 tons, which is a record, being 2,013 tons in excess of the 1940 pack. As was the case

in 1940, a considerable tonnage was diverted from wine-making to drying.

Apricots: The estimated Australian pack is 1,801 tons, which is the largest tonnage produced since 1938. Owing to Defence orders, it was not possible to adequately provide for the Commonwealth trade. New Zealand was the only export market to which a limited tonnage was shipped.

Peaches: The total Australian production is estimated at 542 tons, which is above normal, but owing to service requirements the Commonwealth market was short.

Nectarines: The Australian pack this year is estimated at 53 tons. The Commonwealth market could absorb a larger quantity.

Pears: It is estimated that the Australian production this year

will be 302 tons, and after service requirements were met, only a very small tonnage was available for the Commonwealth.

Prunes: The Australian production this year is estimated at 2,098 tons, compared with 2,447 tons in 1940. The Prune crop has been below normal for the last three years, and owing to the Defence orders, the Commonwealth market has been in very short supply.

WAIKERIE A.D.F.A.

Labor Problems for Dried Fruit Harvest.

The annual and a special general meeting of the Waikerie branch of the Australian Dried Fruits Association, presided over by the chairman of the branch (Mr. J. P. Odgers), was well attended by fruitgrowers.

Labor Problem.

The chairman advised that considerable time and thought had been given to this question.

The special sub-committee had recommended the establishment of a labor bureau at the Association offices, where employer and employee could be brought together. There must be agreement with regard to uniformity of wages so that growers would not offer a few shillings more to entice pickers from their neighbors. Co-operation between adjoining growers was suggested, such as pooling of plant, lorries, etc.

Women Workers.

The committee said they hoped to get 100 women workers through the Women's War Service Council. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure a continuity of work for these girls and also for a guarantee of £1 per week board allowance in case of bad weather stoppage.

The meeting resolved that vigorous local action be continued to meet the serious labor situation.

Executive Re-elected.

The executive committee, Messrs. J. J. Odgers, J. R. Jamison, C. B. Williams, H. J. Norris, L. W. Andrew, R. O. J. Dunning and F. R. Francis were re-elected for the ensuing year. Mr. J. B. Murdoch, as a member of A.D.F.A. Board of Management, is ex officio member, of local executive.

The Pig Pen

SIZE OF BREEDING SOWS.

Size is an important feature in breeding pigs, yet some breeders do not give it sufficient consideration.

One of the chief objectives in pig raising is to get pigs to marketable weights in the shortest possible time, states the Queensland Agric. Journal. To obtain the desired rapid development and still have a finished pig with a light covering of fat, it is necessary to breed from pigs which are big within their class. That is to say, pork type breeding stock—such as Middle Whites—should be big animals of their category if their progeny are to grow quickly to porker weights. Bacon type breeding stock—such as Large Whites—also should be big for their type if their progeny are to develop similarly to baconer weights. The extreme bacon type of breeding stock could, of course, be used to produce fast growing porkers, but such porkers, under normal feeding conditions, would not be sufficiently mature to give good carcasses at porker weights. Breeding pigs should be big within their type.

Size is inherited in pigs as it is in horses, and trying to grow a small type pig into an extreme bacon type is like trying to make a pony into a draught horse.

Observations lead to the belief that size within a breed is frequently lost through mating stock before they are sufficiently grown.

A large breeding sow, provided she is not too fat and clumsy, is more likely to produce a litter of large pigs and to be able to suckle them better than a smaller sow, under similar conditions.

Records of a large number of breeding sows show that sows which are mated when between nine and twelve months old are more productive throughout their breeding career than sows mated earlier or later.

PIGS NEED SHADE.

Pigs need shade in hot weather. If there are no trees in the yards or paddocks, put in four posts, join them up with poles or sawn timber, and thatch with bushes, straw or bags. There are many quick-growing trees which can be planted for shade purposes.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

WHOLESALE FRUIT MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA,

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne, Phone: F 4866.

Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Tasmanian News and Notes

APPLES SETTING WELL — PEARS SATISFACTORY IN NORTH.
LIGHT IN SOUTH — ACQUISITION DECISION AWAITED — LABOR
AND CASE PROBLEM.

(By Our Correspondent.)

SINCE MY LAST NOTES climatic conditions in the North of the Island have been favorable for cultivation and spraying, although a little windy at times for the latter. The calyx spray was put on thoroughly and on time in most orchards, and there has been sufficient rain to keep the ground in good order for cultivating. So far as I know there has been no evidence of Black Spot on any variety yet.

The setting of most varieties of Pears seems to be satisfactory, and Apples also appear to give average prospects of a good crop.

Case material is going to be the problem, as so few mills are

cutting up North; the price, of course, has risen.

In the Southern districts the past month has been windy and unpleasant, which delayed the calyx spray in many instances; added to the weather troubles influenza in a bad form has been prevalent, and most orchards suffered in consequence, as nearly every family had one or more down, and recovery has been very slow. However, most of orchards were sprayed efficiently in spite of difficulties, and as there have been a lot of rainy days, the delay in cultivation will not matter greatly.

Snow fell right to the water's edge during the early hours of Sunday morning, November 16;

this is later than usual, but so far I cannot see any serious damage showing up. In fact, the foliage of both Apples and Pears looks particularly healthy.

Crop Prospects in South.

The setting of Pears is not heavy; Winter Coles seem light, Comice fair, Josephine good, Nelis light, and B. Bosc averaging quite good as far as I have seen.

The Apples appear to have set pretty well, Cleos, in fact, appear to be heavy, Jons. medium, Alfriston good, Granny Smiths good, Democrats light, S.P.M. and G. Fannies up to the average, and Sturmers quite up to last year, which is fortunate, as there will probably be a big demand for them for canning.

The Acquisition Committee has disbursed the final payments due on the 1941 crop.

Acquisition Decision Awaited.

The details of the 1942 scheme are awaited anxiously, and it is

to be hoped that they will be settled in time to allow all arrangements to be made well in advance.

If the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee are adopted, many of the faults of the two previous seasons' administration should be corrected. Something must be done to lessen the difference between the price the producer receives and amount paid by the ultimate consumer. It passes through too many hands and the commissions and profits seem rather liberal.

Few fruitgrowers' meetings have been held recently; apparently the growers are waiting to see the details of the plans for 1942.

Labor and Case Problems.

The early estimates of the crop in the various States suggests that Tasmania will be called on to supply considerably more for the mainland markets than during the two previous years, which will be difficult in view of the labor shortage and lack of cases.

Small fruits of all sorts look well in all the districts I have seen, and it is anticipated that it will all be required at a reasonable price.

There are not a great many Cherries grown in Tasmania, but most of them seem to have fairly good crops.

The

State Election

for the House of Assembly takes place on December 13, and there are a lot of candidates endorsed by both sides, so many that it is difficult to make any forecast as to results.

TASMANIAN CROP PROSPECTS.

Apple and Pear 1942 crop prospects are for satisfactory yields. Forecasts from the Department of Agriculture indicate that under normal conditions there will be around 6,422,929 bushels of Apples (compared with a normal total of 6,472,000 in 1941; Pears, 408,275 bushels, as compared with 435,000 normal).

Hereunder are given the anticipated yields according to varieties, with the normal yield

Apples.

Granny Smith, 268,872 (250,000); Democrat, 543,327 (580,000); Delicious, 130,542 (120,000); Crofton, 141,852 (150,000); Jonathan, 936,762 (970,000); Yates, 6,300 (7,000); Ribstones, 28,122 (28,000); Worcesters, 76,212 (76,000); Cox, 217,062 (221,000); Cleo., 732,930 (713,000); Sturmers, 1,742,800 (1,688,000); Geveston Fanny, 120,165 (120,000); Scarlets, 458,612 (503,000); Alfristons 146,922 (138,000); Duke Clarence, 57,930 (78,000); other varieties 854,519 (830,000).

Pears.

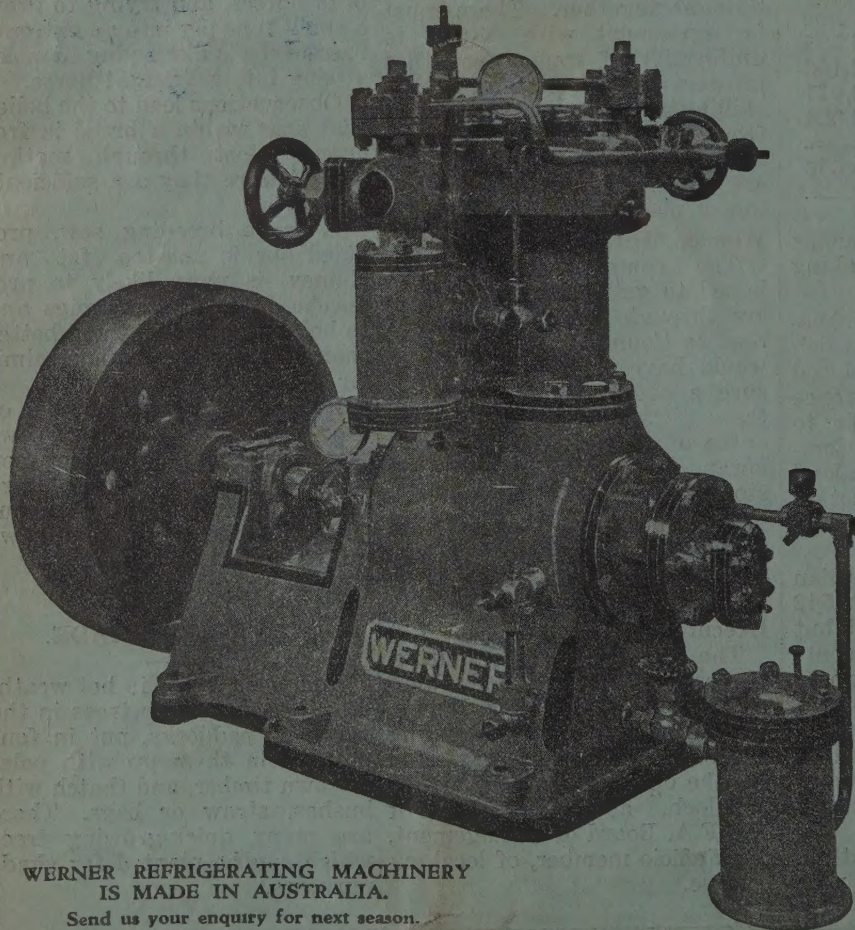
Winter Coles, 138,887 (160,000); Winter Nelis, 16,956 (19,000); Packham's Triumph, 19,199 (20,000); Josephine, 16,621 (16,000); d'Anjou, 5,700 (7000); Comice, 17,996 (20,000); Glou Morceau, 22,669 (28,000); B. Bosc, 64,243 (70,000); other varieties, 106,004 (95,000).

The foregoing are subject to amendment according to weather and other conditions.

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